CIPHER

Volume 6 **By Minako Narita**

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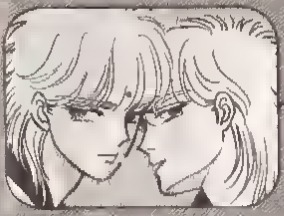
WHO'S WHO IN CIPHER



Siva & Cipher

Siva (Jake) & Cipher (Roy): Identical twin brothers made famous by their childhood acting success. Now, they share not just a face, but a single identity. Trading off attending school and acting auditions, it is nearly impossible to tell them apart. Or is it?

Anise

Schoolmate and good friend of Siva (Jake) and Cipher (Roy). She was on the verge of taking her relationship with Cipher to a romantic level but it didn't quite work out. Now it seems that they are both growing increasingly distant to her as they enter a new phase of their lives.

Dana

An actress working on a movie set with Cipher (Roy) who she thinks is Siva (Jake). She is also a very talented singer and often serenades the neighborhood with her beautiful voice. One of many siblings.

Mrs. Jackson (aka Big Mamma)

Dana's mother. Runs the family business, the neighborhood diner famous for good food and friendly service. Siva (Jake) has chosen to reveal the twins' life story to her.

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I BEGAN TO THINK OF ROY AS MY LITTLE BROTHER.
FROM THE DAY MY FATHER DIED...
WHEN I FELT LIKE IT, I'D TREAT HIM COLDLY.
THEN, WHEN I COULD TELL HE WAS ABOUT TO CRY, I'D FEEL SATISFIED
M, YEE IT WAS A LITTLE CHILDISH.
BUT IT ALWAYS MADE ME FEEL GOOD...
...KNOWING THAT I WAS IMPORTANT TO HIM.

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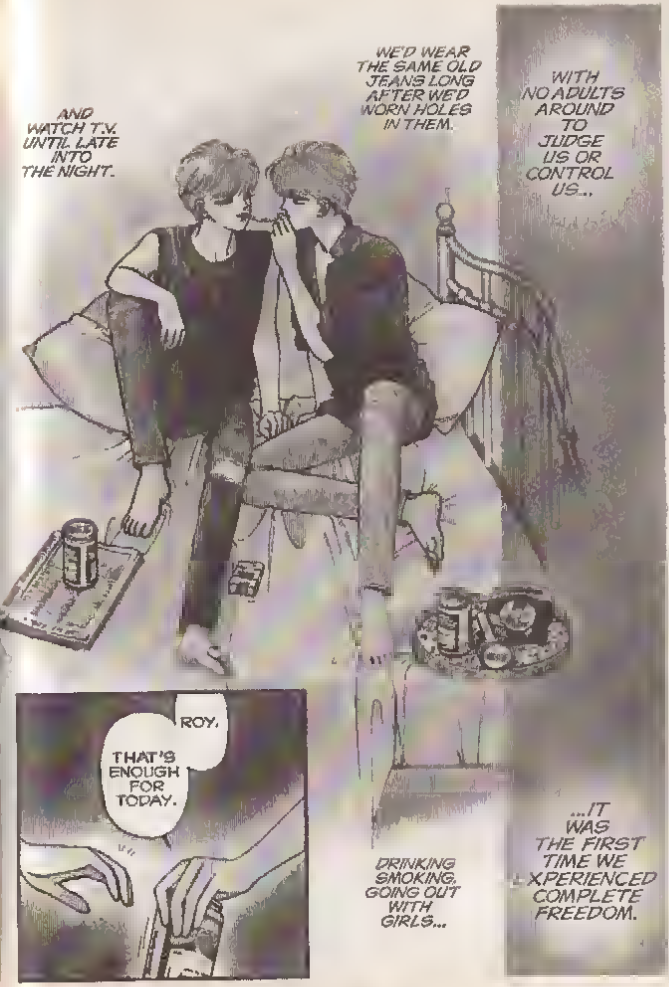
AND WATCH T.V. UNTIL LATE INTO THE NIGHT.
WE'D WEAR THE SAME OLD JEANS LONG AFTER WE'D WORN HOLES IN THEM.
WITH NO ADULTS AROUND TO JUDGE US OR CONTROL US...
ROY, THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
DRINKING SMOKING, GOING OUT WITH GIRLS...
...IT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE EXPERIENCED COMPLETE FREEDOM.

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WHY DO YOU NEED IT SO BAD?
SOME-THING'S WRONG WITH YOU.
HUH, JAKE?
THEN HOW ABOUT A JAY?
BEER ISN'T LIQUOR.
DON'T BE A SMART-ASS.
YOU JUST GOT SICK FROM DRINKING WHISKEY.
DON'T CALL IT THAT. CALL IT A JOINT!
I HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING WELL RECENTLY.
I WANT TO SLEEP LIKE I'M DEAD AND WAKE UP REFRESHED.
SLAM
STAY UP LATE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS.
THAT'S EASY ENOUGH

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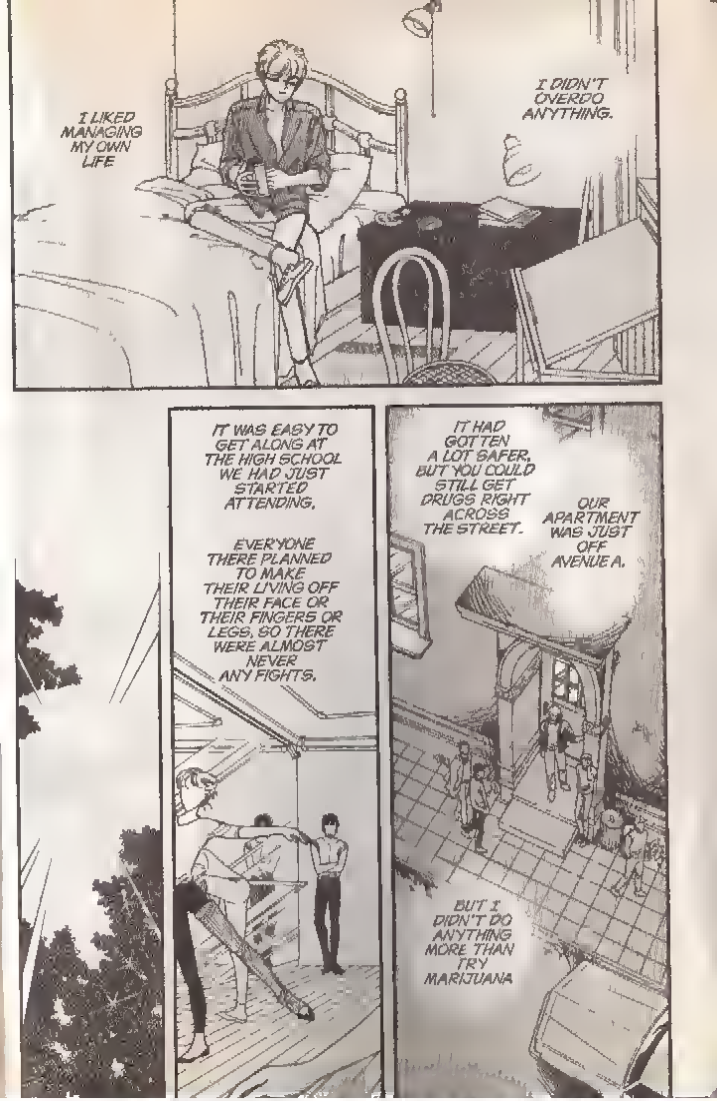
I LIKED MANAGING MY OWN LIFE
I DIDN'T OVERDO ANYTHING.
IT WAS EASY TO GET ALONG AT THE HIGH SCHOOL WE HAD JUST STARTED ATTENDING.
EVERYONE THERE PLANNED TO MAKE THEIR LIVING OFF THEIR FACE OR THEIR FINGERS OR LEGS, SO THERE WERE ALMOST NEVER ANY FIGHTS.
IT HAD GOTTEN A LOT SAFER, BUT YOU COULD STILL GET DRUGS RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET.
OUR APARTMENT WAS JUST OFF AVENUE A.
BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING MORE THAN TRY MARIJUANA

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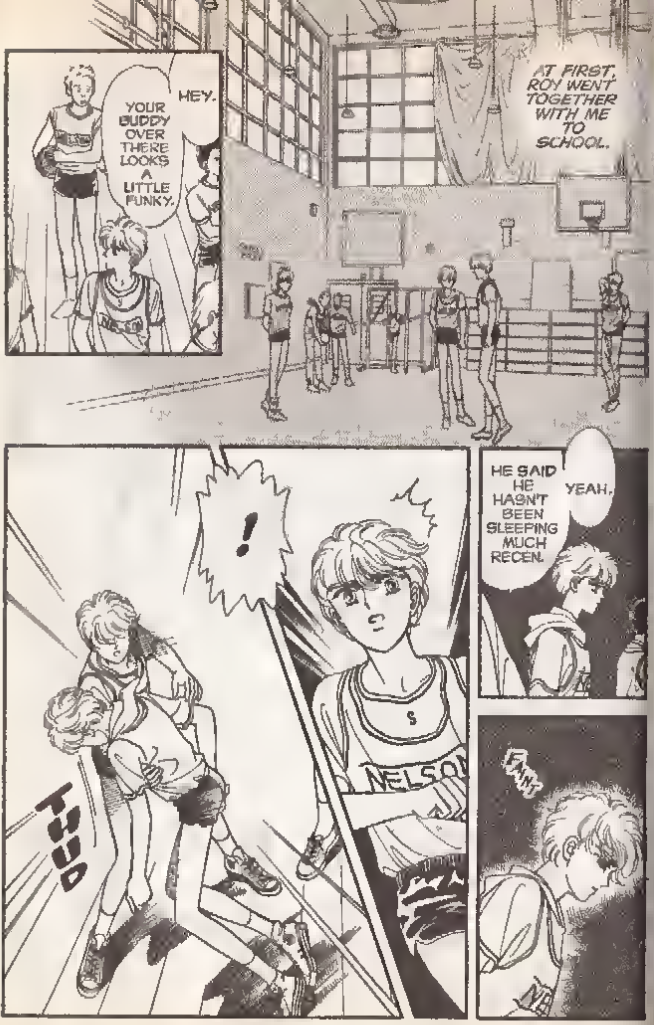

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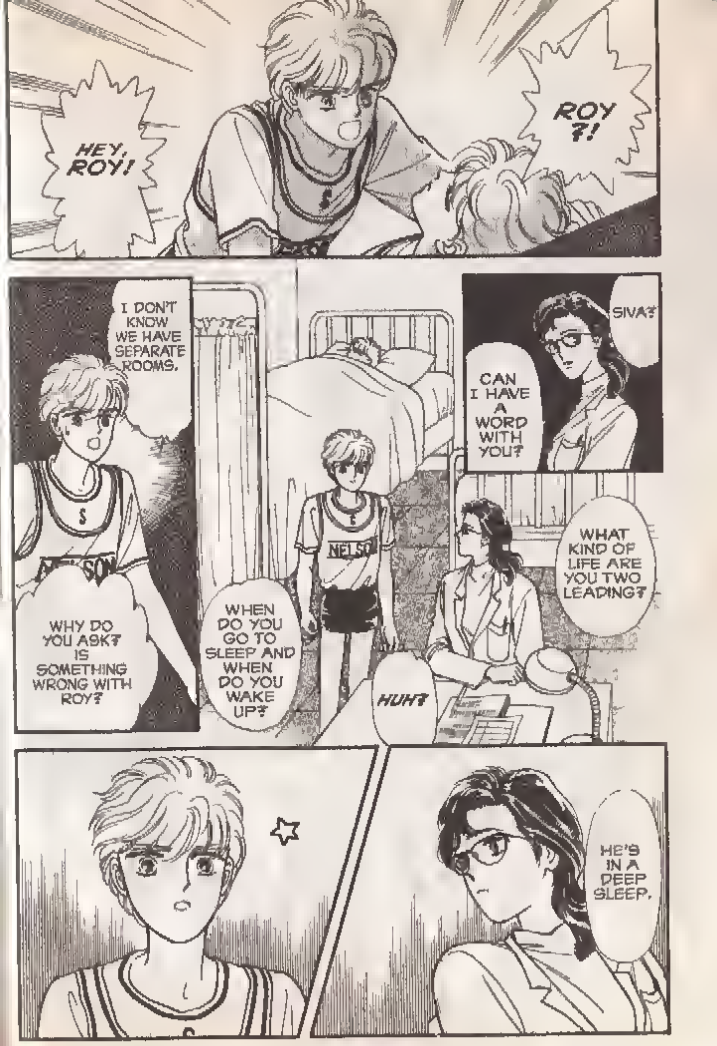
HEY, ROY!
ROY?!
I DON'T KNOW WE HAVE SEPARATE ROOMS.
WHY DO YOU ASK? IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH ROY?
WHEN DO YOU GO TO SLEEP AND WHEN DO YOU WAKE UP?
HUH?
SIVA?
CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?
WHAT KIND OF LIFE ARE YOU TWO LEADING?
HE'S IN A DEEP SLEEP.

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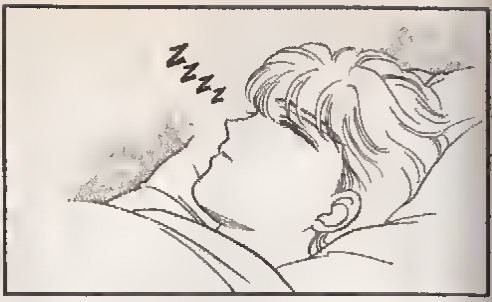
PET SHOP BOYS

I'VE BEEN REALLY INTERESTED IN THEM RECENTLY ESPECIALLY CHRIS.

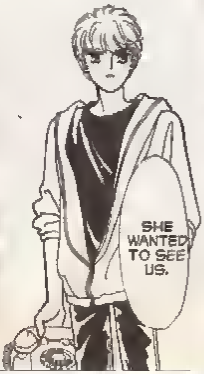
BUT I STILL LOVE THE THOMPSON TWINS BEST. I WENT TO SEE THEM LIVE IN LONDON IN MAY. '87. I'VE HAD DREAMS OF THEM ABOUT 6 TIMES. I GUESS I MUST BE A LITTLE CRAZY. BACK IN THE DAYS OF ANIME ALIEN I WAS INSPIRED BY MOVIES. BUT NOW THAT I'M DOING CIPHER, I GET MY INSPIRATION MOSTLY FROM MUSIC

TOM BAILEY OF THE THOMPSON TWINS

TTS TOM BAYLEY



THAT WAS JEAN. SOMEONE FROM SCHOOL CALLED HER.



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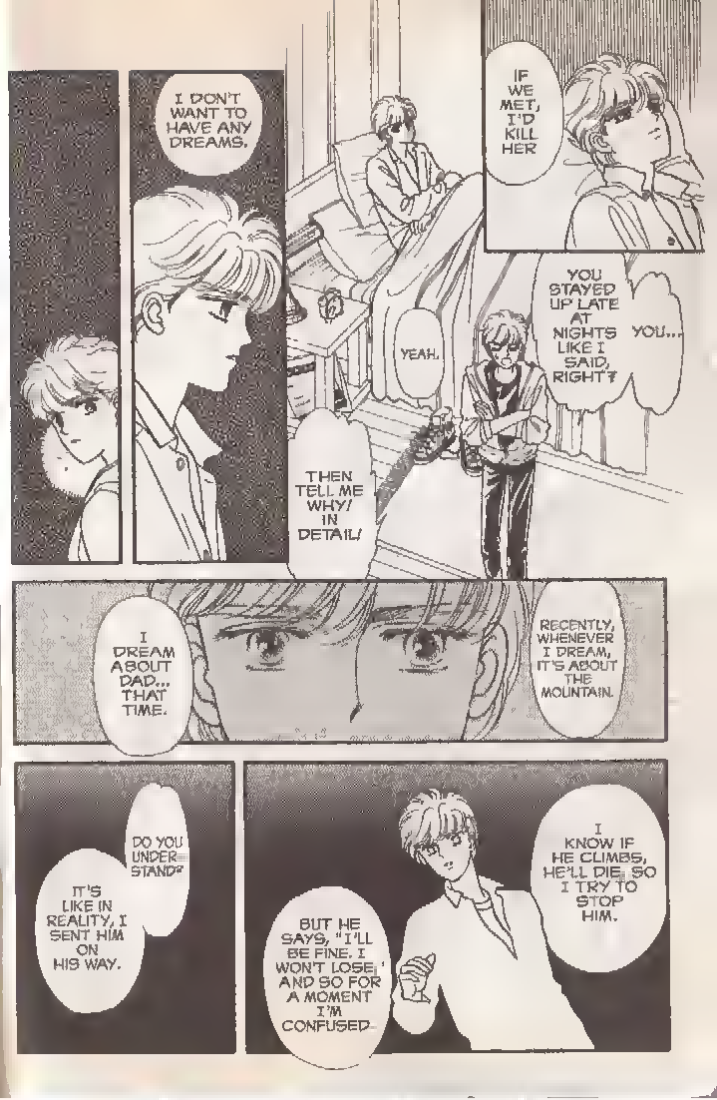
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANY DREAMS.
IF WE MET, I'D KILL HER
YOU STAYED UP LATE AT NIGHTS LIKE I SAID, RIGHT?
YOU...
YEAH.
THEN TELL ME WHY! IN DETAIL!
I DREAM ABOUT DAD... THAT TIME.
RECENTLY, WHENEVER I DREAM, IT'S ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
IT'S LIKE IN REALITY, I SENT HIM ON HIS WAY.
I KNOW IF HE CLIMBS, HE'LL DIE, SO I TRY TO STOP HIM.
BUT HE SAYS, "I'LL BE FINE. I WON'T LOSE," AND SO FOR A MOMENT I'M CONFUSED

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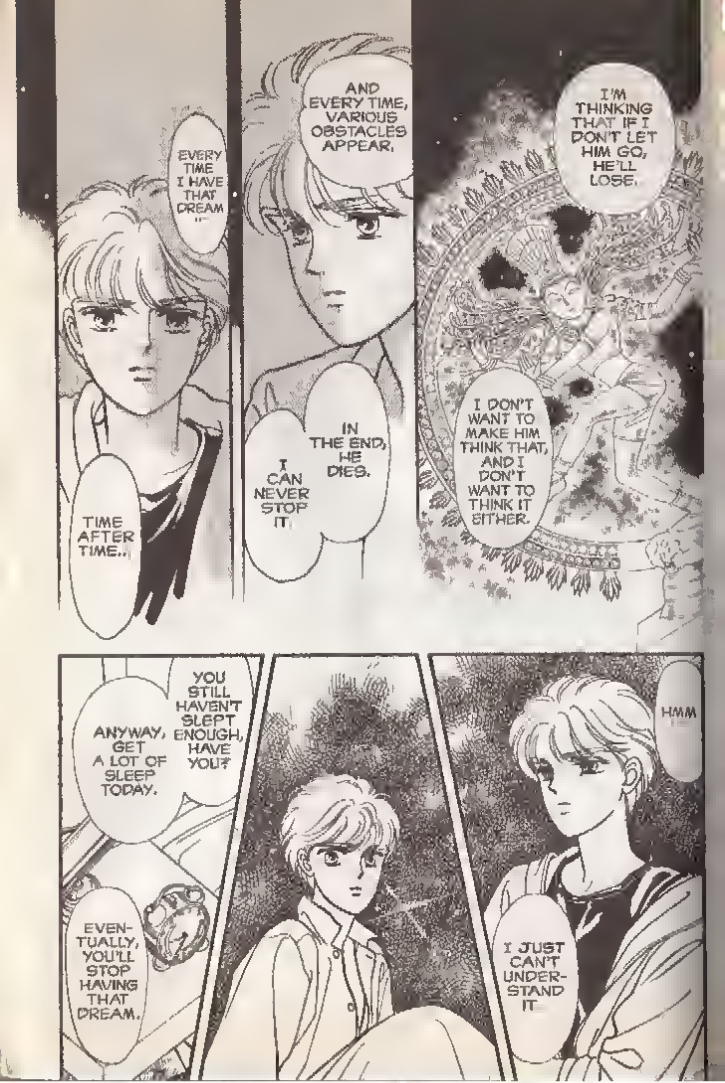
EVERY TIME I HAVE THAT DREAM...
TIME AFTER TIME..
AND EVERY TIME, VARIOUS OBSTACLES APPEAR.
I CAN NEVER STOP IT.
IN THE END, HE DIES.
I'M THINKING THAT IF I DON'T LET HIM GO, HE'LL LOSE.
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE HIM THINK THAT, AND I DON'T WANT TO THINK IT EITHER.
ANYWAY, GET A LOT OF SLEEP TODAY.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T SLEPT ENOUGH, HAVE YOU?
EVEN-TUALLY, YOU'LL STOP HAVING THAT DREAM.
I JUST CAN'T UNDER-STAND IT.
HMM

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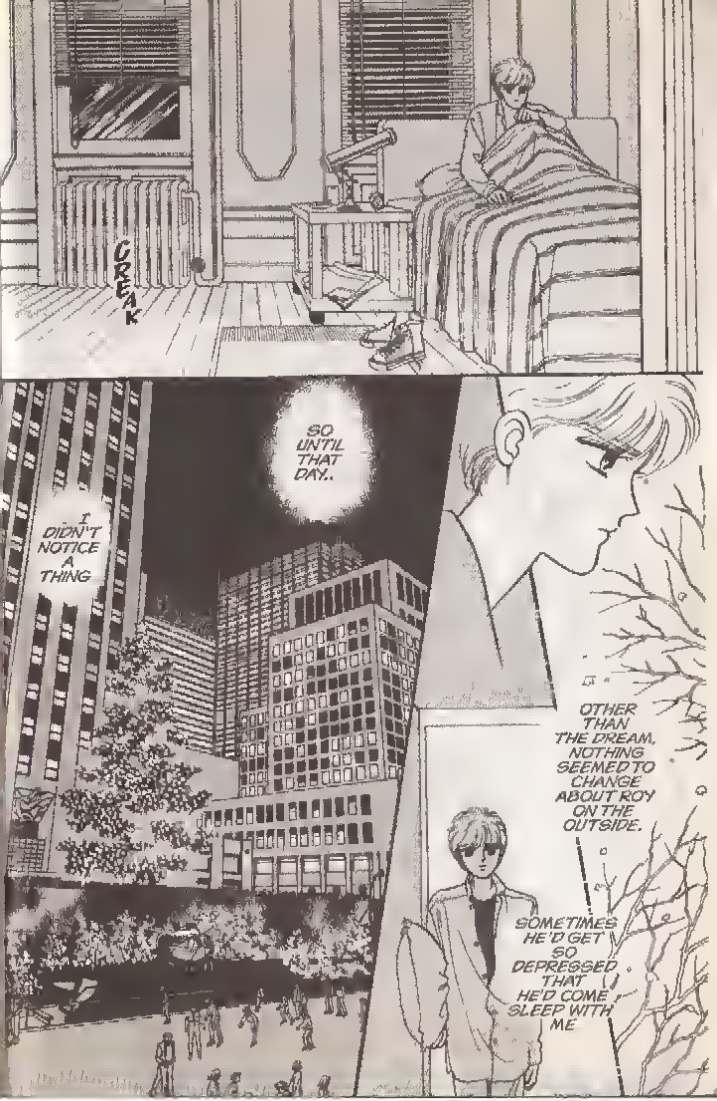
CREAK
I DIDN'T NOTICE A THING
SO UNTIL THAT DAY..
OTHER THAN THE DREAM, NOTHING SEEMED TO CHANGE ABOUT ROY ON THE OUTSIDE.
SOMETIMES HE'D GET SO DEPRESSED THAT HE'D COME SLEEP WITH ME

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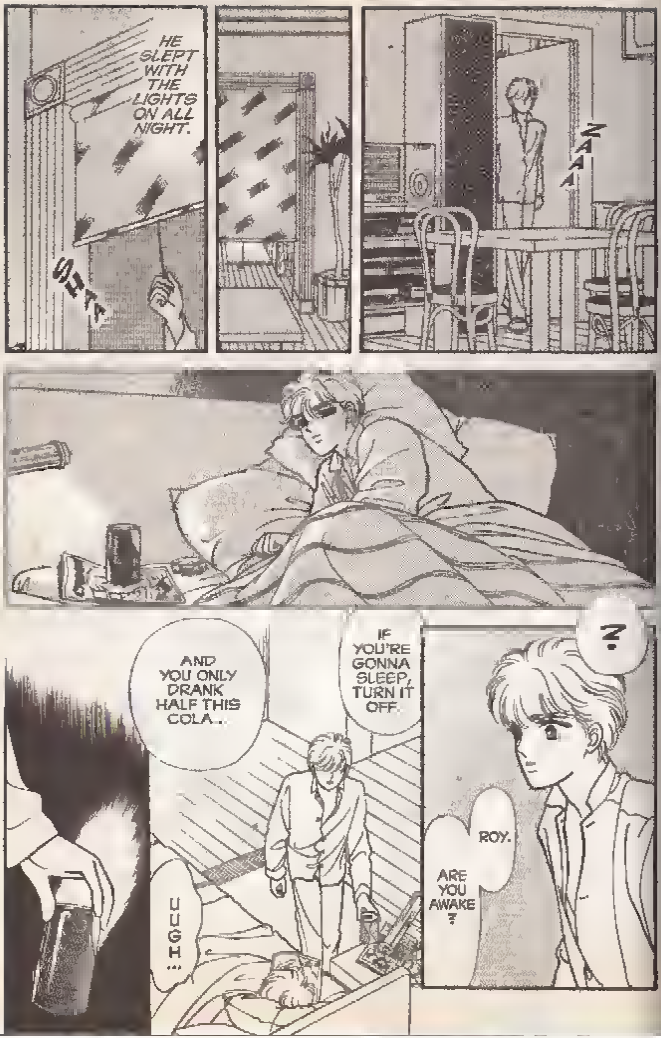

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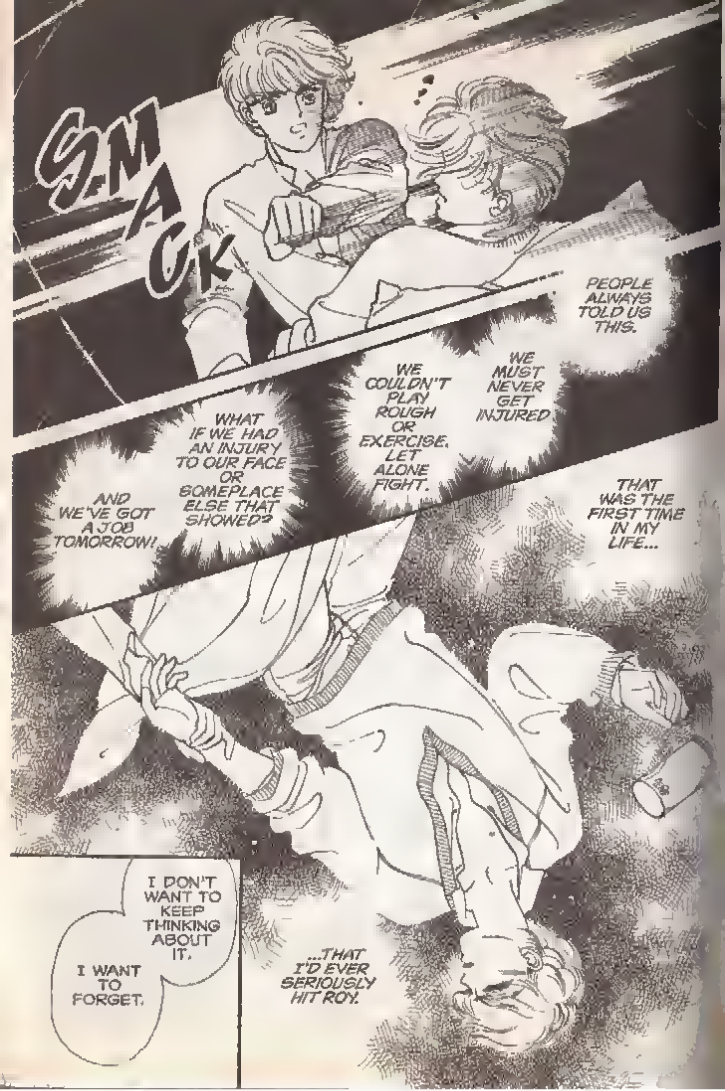
S.M
A
C
K
PEOPLE ALWAYS TOLD US THIS.
WE MUST NEVER GET INJURED
WE COULDN'T PLAY ROUGH OR EXERCISE, LET ALONE FIGHT.
WHAT IF WE HAD AN INJURY TO OUR FACE OR SOMEPLACE ELSE THAT SHOWED?
AND WE'VE GOT A JOB TOMORROW!
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...
I DON'T WANT TO KEEP THINKING ABOUT IT.
I WANT TO FORGET.
...THAT I'D EVER SERIOUSLY HIT ROY.

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WHEN I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE, I'LL KICK...
I KNOW IT'S NOT GOOD, BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S NECESSARY.
YOU THINK YOU CAN CONTROL THIS FOREVER?!
I ONLY DO IT OCCASIONALLY I WON'T GET HOOKED.
YOU'RE JUST MAKING MORE PROBLEMS.
AND YOU THINK DRUGS ARE GONNA HELP YOU WITH THAT?
EVIL
ROY RANG!
IS ROY ABSENT?
AND YOU CAN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE ALONE, EVEN WHEN YOU GO TO WORK OR SCHOOL.
UNTIL YOU'VE QUIT!
IF YOU WANT ANYTHING, YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK ME FOR IT.
FROM NOW ON I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANY MONEY!

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YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK HIM THAT.
I DON'T KNOW.
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO SKIPPED OUT OF SCHOOL.
HE'S HERE NOW.
THE RESULT WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE.
THIS MORNING WE LEFT TOGETHER, BUT...
IT'S JEAN.
EXPLAIN IT TO HER YOUR-SELF.
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT HER.
I DON'T WANNA TALK TO HER!
YOU!
...
CLICK

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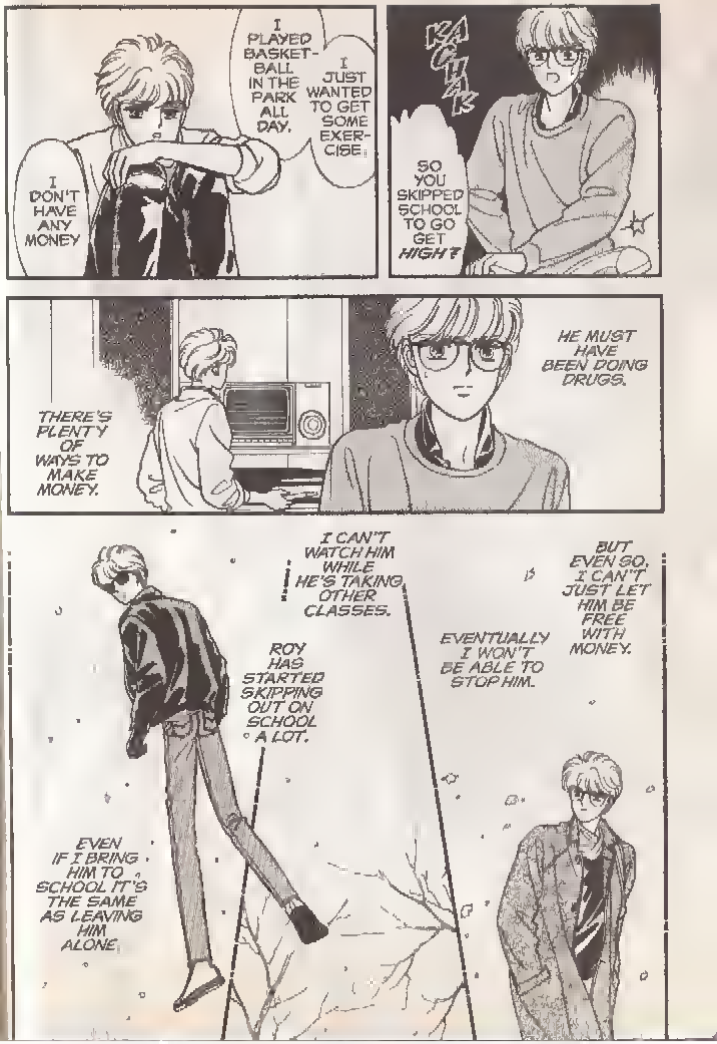
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY
I PLAYED BASKET-BALL IN THE PARK ALL DAY.
I JUST WANTED TO GET SOME EXER-CISE.
KACHA
SO YOU SKIPPED SCHOOL TO GO GET HIGH?
THERE'S PLENTY OF WAYS TO MAKE MONEY.
HE MUST HAVE BEEN DOING DRUGS.
EVEN IF I BRING HIM TO SCHOOL IT'S THE SAME AS LEAVING HIM ALONE.
ROY HAS STARTED SKIPPING OUT ON SCHOOL A LOT.
I CAN'T WATCH HIM WHILE HE'S TAKING OTHER CLASSES.
EVENTUALLY I WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP HIM.
BUT EVEN SO, I CAN'T JUST LET HIM BE FREE WITH MONEY.

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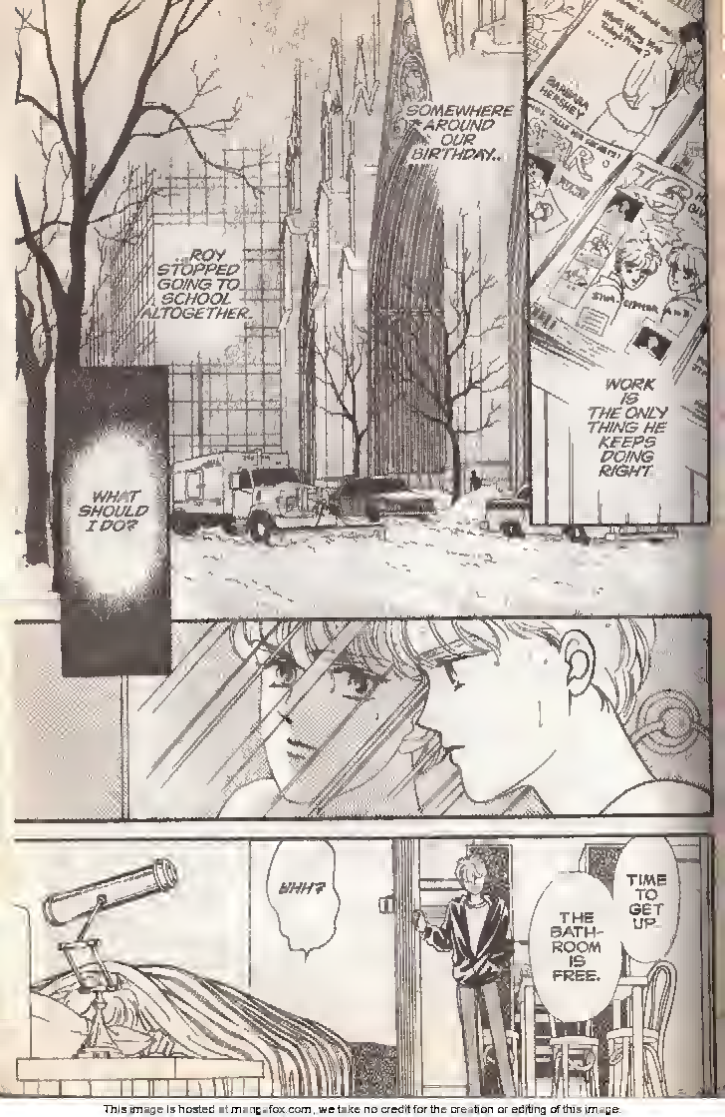
SOMEWHERE AROUND OUR BIRTHDAY..
ROY STOPPED GOING TO SCHOOL ALTOGETHER.
WORK IS THE ONLY THING HE KEEPS DOING RIGHT.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
TIME TO GET UP.
THE BATH-ROOM IS FREE.
EHH?

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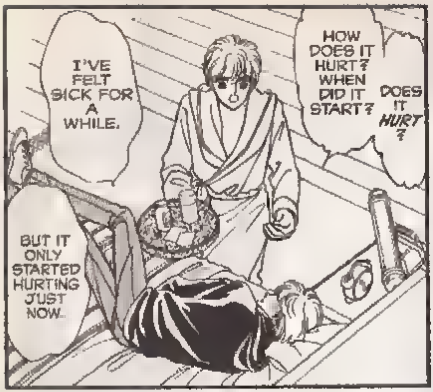

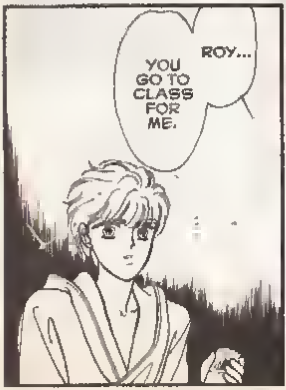

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WE'RE DOING A REHEARSAL THAT GETS TAPED ON VIDEO.
DON'T RUIN MY GRADES.
THE CLASS GETS GRADED EVERY TIME.
HUH?
WHAT? HOW CAN I GO FOR YOU?
GO AS "SIVA."
OKAY.
I'LL DO IT.

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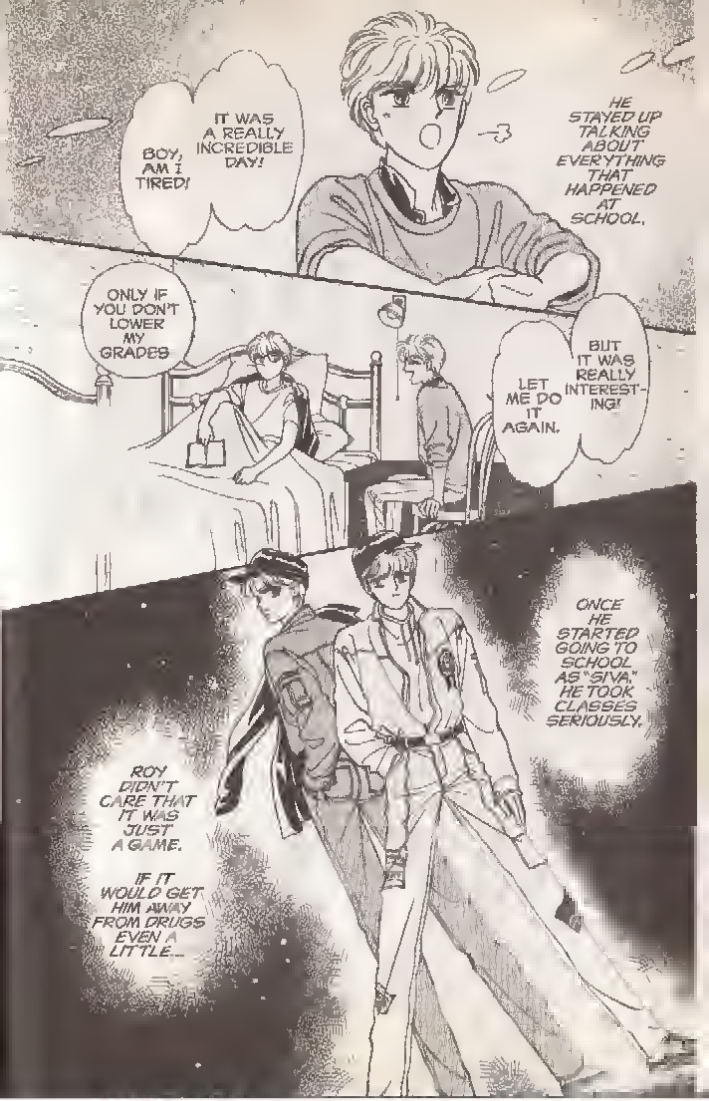
BOY, AM I TIRED!
IT WAS A REALLY INCREDIBLE DAY!
HE STAYED UP TALKING ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL.
ONLY IF YOU DON'T LOWER MY GRADES
LET ME DO IT AGAIN.
BUT IT WAS REALLY INTERESTING!
ONCE HE STARTED GOING TO SCHOOL AS "SIVA," HE TOOK CLASSES SERIOUSLY.
ROY DIDN'T CARE THAT IT WAS JUST A GAME.
IF IT WOULD GET HIM AWAY FROM DRUGS EVEN A LITTLE...

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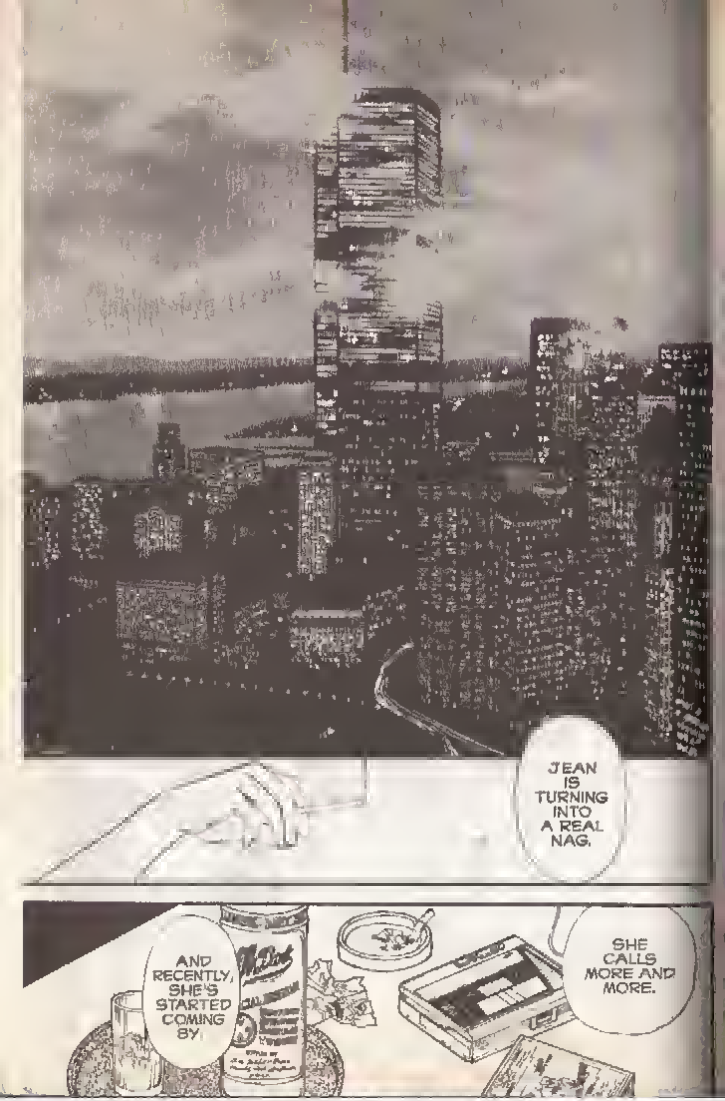

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MAYBE SHE'S TRYING TO GET US TO COME BACK!
YOUR BEHAVIOR UP TILL NOW HAS BEEN TERRIBLE.
THAT TRICK WON'T WORK ANY MORE.
TELL HER AGAIN I'LL RUN AWAY!
I WON'T SEE HER NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES SHE COMES!
CAN'T PRETEND LIKE YOU RAN AWAY?
HOLD ON, ROY.
THEN I'LL RUN AWAY FOR REAL!
WE CAN PULL IT OFF.
WHEN "SIVA" IS OUT OF THE HOUSE, THE OTHER OF US WON'T ANSWER THE PHONE OR THE INTERCOM.
NAH, SHE'LL FIGURE THAT OUT SOON.

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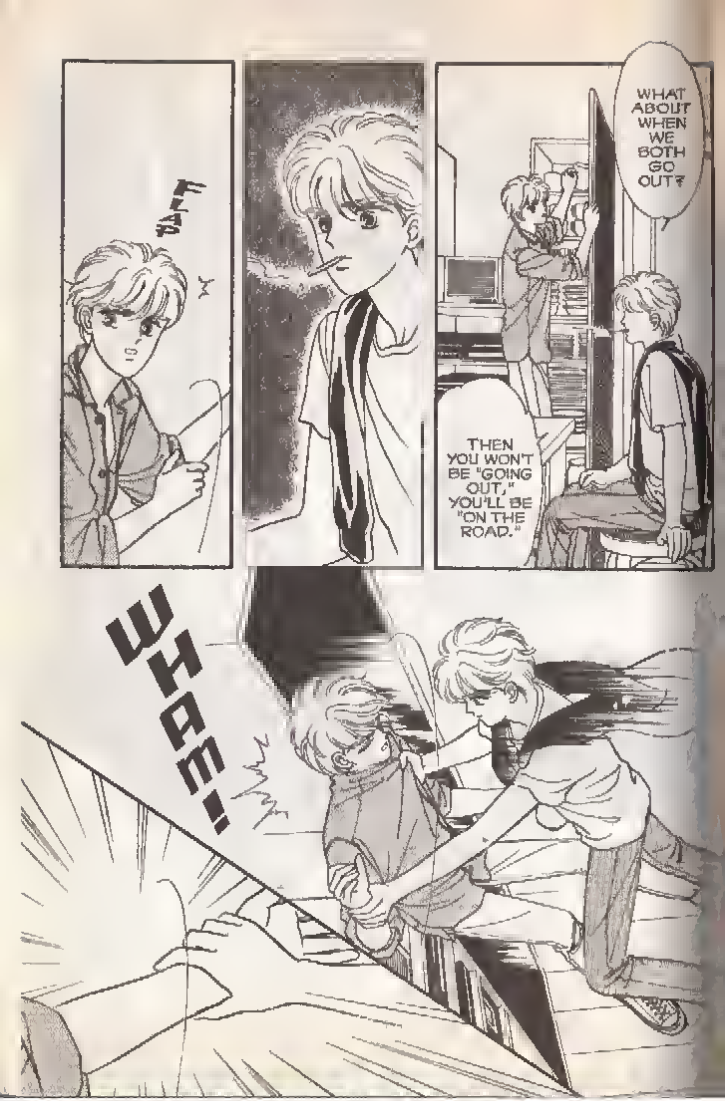

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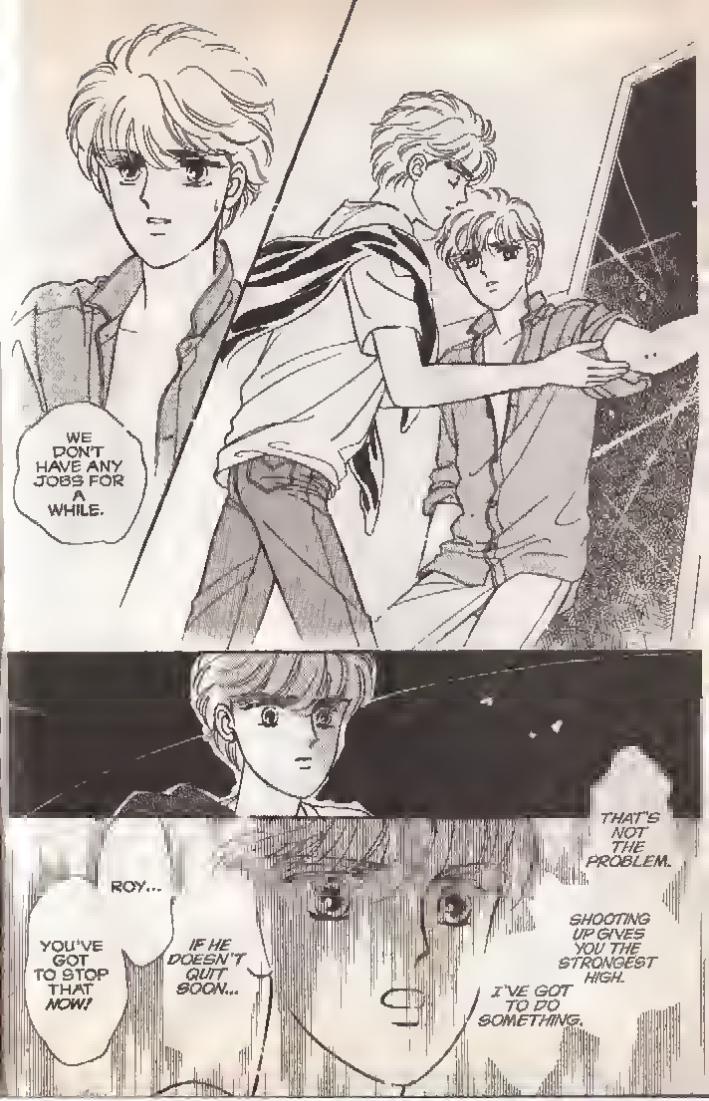
WE DON'T HAVE ANY JOBS FOR A WHILE.
ROY...
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THAT NOW!
IF HE DOESN'T QUIT SOON...
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING.
SHOOTING UP GIVES YOU THE STRONGEST HIGH.
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.

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NOW I FEEL STUPID FOR BUSTING MY ASS FOR YOU!
IT'S OKAY JAKE
IF NOTHING I SAY OR DO MATTERS TO YOU...
...GO AHEAD AND RUN AWAY FROM HOME!
NEVER AGAIN!
I'M SORRY, JAKE!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
JAKE!

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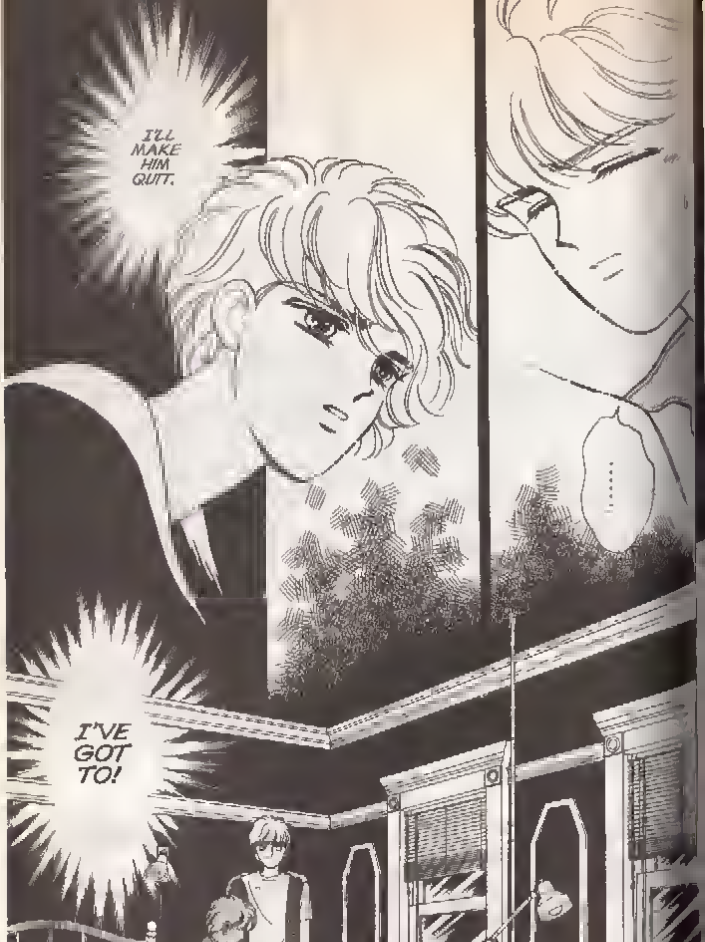

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AT THAT TIME, IT SEEMED LIKE ROY WAS TAKING WHATEVER HE COULD GET HIS HANDS ON.
THERE ARE A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT THINGS UNDER THE CATEGORY OF "DRUGS."
THE MOST POPULAR ARE MARIJUANA, COCAINE, HEROIN, AND CODEINE.
I GUESS YOU CAN INCLUDE SPEED AND DOWNERS IN THERE, TOO.
I'M SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY
I'M SORRY, JAKE.

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SO DRUGS ARE WHAT'S PROPPING YOU UP?
IT'S THE ONE THING
FOR NOW, YES.
BUT IF I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING PROPPING ME UP...
...THEN I CAN'T STAND ON MY OWN, CAN I?
I'LL MAKE HIM QUIT.
I'VE JUST GOT TO.

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IT'S PITIFUL. YOU GOTTA GET TOUGHER!
YOU'RE LACK OF SELF-CONTROL IS PATHETIC.
YOU'RE JUST BEING WEAK.
OTHER-WISE, HOW COULD YOU KEEP DOING SOME-THING YOU KNOW IS BAD?
.....
YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY, THAT'S ALL.
OH?
THEN LET'S SEE YOU DO IT.
I CAN QUIT IF I WANT!

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ALL JUNKIES SAY THAT!
BUT I'M NOT A JUNKIE!
A TREATMENT CENTER?
I'M NOT AN ADDICT! I CAN QUIT BY MYSELF.
UH ...
LET'S GO TO A TREATMENT CENTER RIGHT NOW.
IT WOULD RUIN MY CAREER!
WHAT IF IT GETS OUT THAT I'M GETTING TREATED FOR DRUGS?
ROY?!
!
IF I KICK IT BY THE TIME WE HAVE A JOB, I CAN..
WHAT'S WRONG WITH QUITTING ON MY OWN?
WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT YOUR CAREER OR YOUR HEALTH?

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TELL HER YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE 'CIPHER' IS!
JEAN'S HERE! THAT'S HER CAR IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING!
ROY ?!
I'VE GOT TO GO KILL TIME SOMEWHERE I'LL COME HOME LATER
SORRY, JAKE.
42ND STREET
A SMASH!
"IT'S PITIFUL. YOU GOTTA GET TOUGHER!"
I MUST HAVE HEARD THAT FROM ROY SOMETIME. HE HATES TO LOSE.

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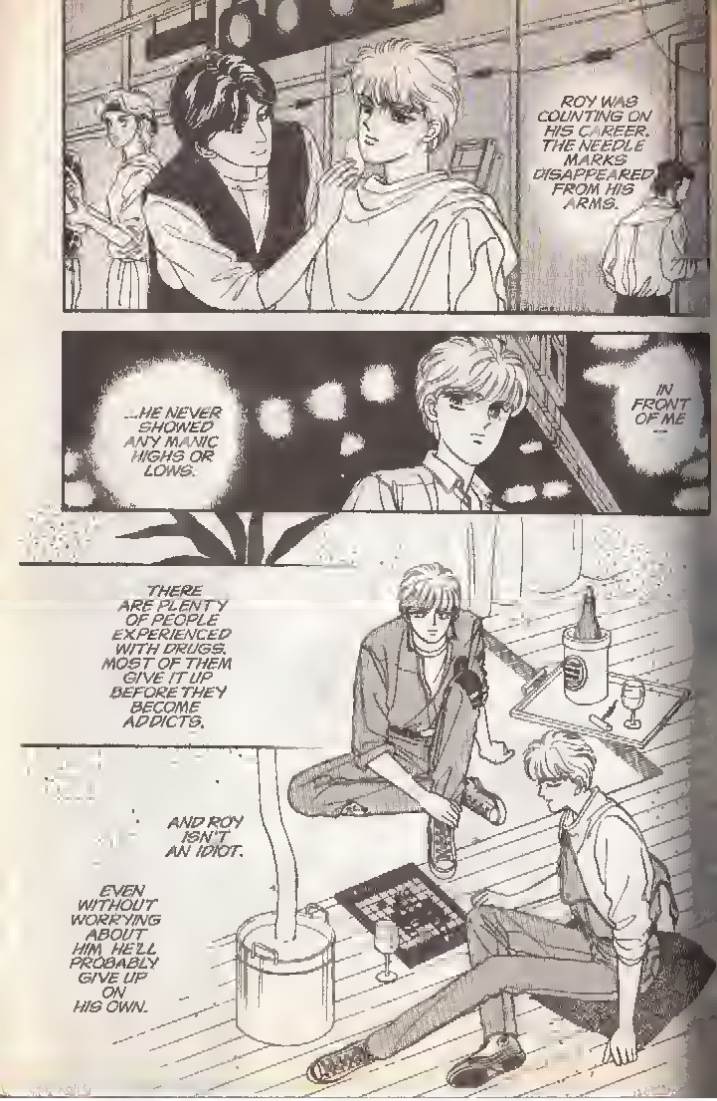
ROY WAS COUNTING ON HIS CAREER. THE NEEDLE MARKS DISAPPEARED FROM HIS ARMS.
...HE NEVER SHOWED ANY MANIC HIGHS OR LOWS.
IN FRONT OF ME ---
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCED WITH DRUGS. MOST OF THEM GIVE IT UP BEFORE THEY BECOME ADDICTS.
AND ROY ISN'T AN IDIOT.
EVEN WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT HIM, HE'LL PROBABLY GIVE UP ON HIS OWN.

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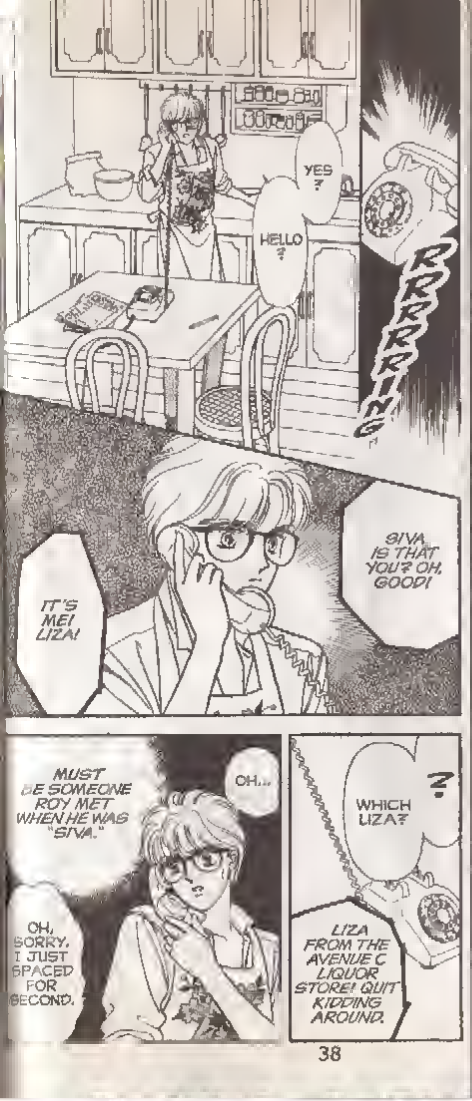
RRRRRING
YES ?
HELLO ?
SIVA, IS THAT YOU? OH, GOOD!
IT'S ME! LIZA!
OH...
MUST BE SOMEONE ROY MET WHEN HE WAS "SIVA."
OH, SORRY. I JUST SPACED FOR SECOND.
?
WHICH LIZA?
LIZA FROM THE AVENUE C LIQUOR STORE! QUIT KIDDING AROUND.
IF WE'RE LUCKY ...
...THINGS GO ON JUST LIKE THIS.

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UH.. I'M SIVA.
A DEALER? A FRIEND OF ROY'S?
I DON'T NEED ANY DRUGS!
HEY, ARE YOU CIPHER, OR SIVA?
I GOT SOME REALLY GOOD STUFF. HOW 'BOUT IT?
AND CIPHER'S QUITTING SOON, TOO!
OH... THAT SO?
NAH, THAT'S CIPHER.
HEY, SIVA!
AIN'T THAT SIVA?
.....
AH... GLAD TO HEAR IT. IF HE DOESN'T SOON...
YOU'VE STILL GOT A LIFE AHEAD OF YOU.
IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU TWO.

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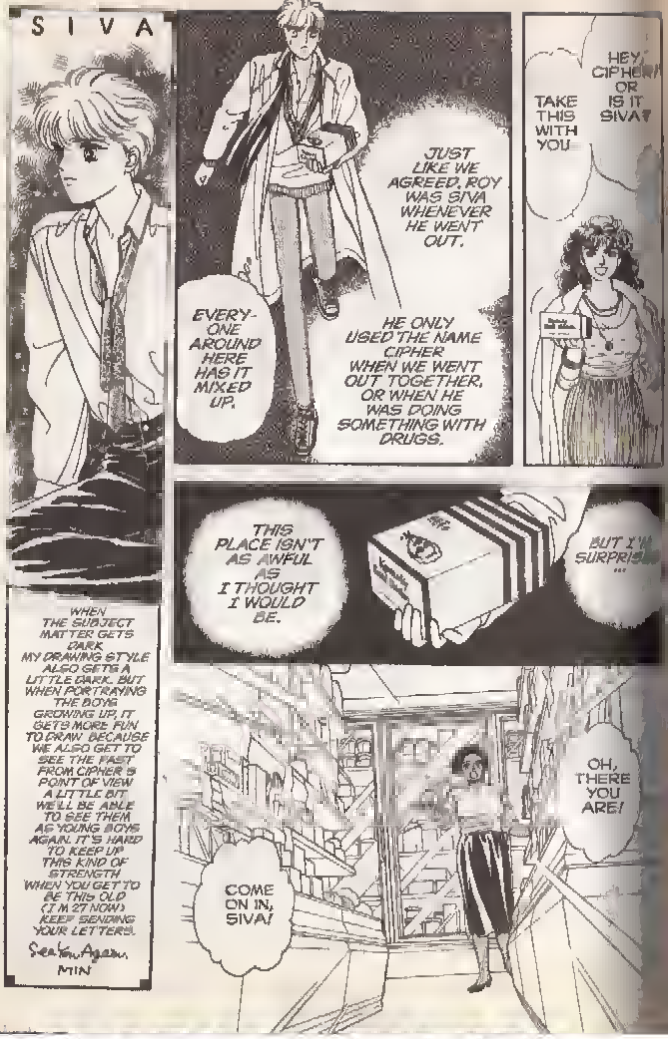
SIVA
JUST LIKE WE AGREED, ROY WAS SIVA WHENEVER HE WENT OUT.
EVERY-ONE AROUND HERE HAS IT MIXED UP.
HE ONLY USED THE NAME CIPHER WHEN WE WENT OUT TOGETHER, OR WHEN HE WAS DOING SOMETHING WITH DRUGS.
TAKE THIS WITH YOU
HEY, CIPHER! OR IS IT SIVA?
THIS PLACE ISN'T AS AWFUL AS I THOUGHT I WOULD BE.
BUT I'M SURPRISED...
OH, THERE YOU ARE!
COME ON IN, SIVA!
WHEN THE SUBJECT MATTER GETS DARK MY DRAWING STYLE ALSO GETS A LITTLE DARK. BUT WHEN I PORTRAYING THE BOYS GROWING UP, IT GETS MORE FUN TO DRAW BECAUSE WE ALSO GET TO SEE THE PAST FROM CIPHER'S POINT OF VIEW A LITTLE BIT. WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THEM AS YOUNG BOYS AGAIN. IT'S HARD TO KEEP UP THIS KIND OF STRENGTH WHEN YOU GET TO BE THIS OLD (I'M 27 NOW) KEEP SENDING YOUR LETTERS.
See You Again.
MIN

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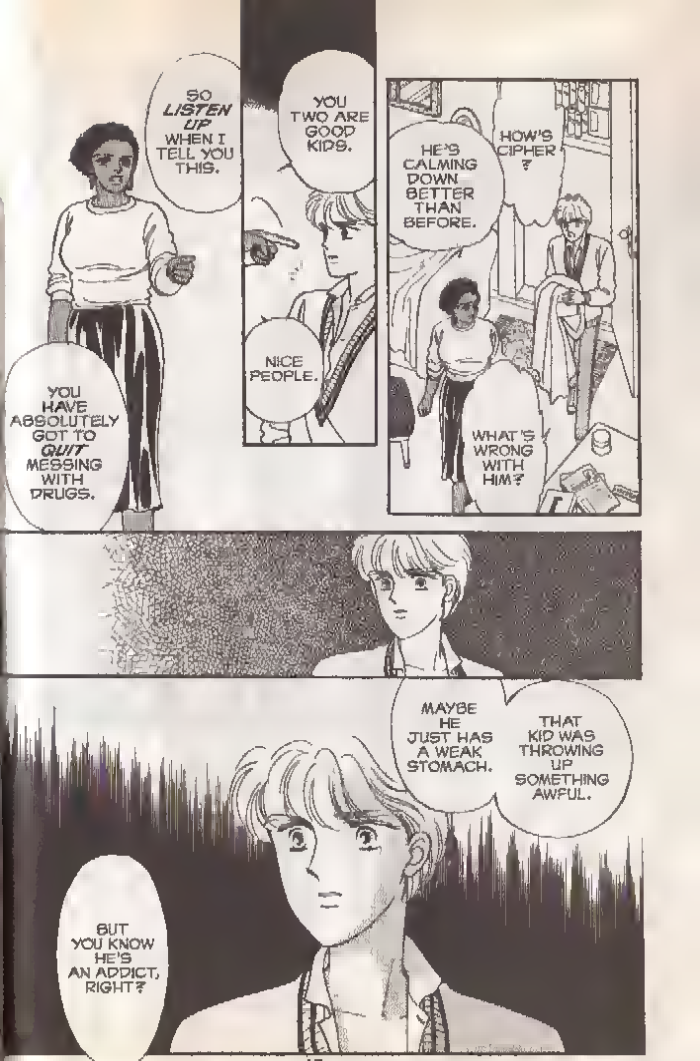
SO LISTEN UP WHEN I TELL YOU THIS.
YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY GOT TO QUIT MESSING WITH DRUGS.
YOU TWO ARE GOOD KIDS.
NICE PEOPLE.
HOW'S CIPHER?
HE'S CALMING DOWN BETTER THAN BEFORE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
THAT KID WAS THROWING UP SOMETHING AWFUL.
MAYBE HE JUST HAS A WEAK STOMACH.
BUT YOU KNOW HE'S AN ADDICT, RIGHT?

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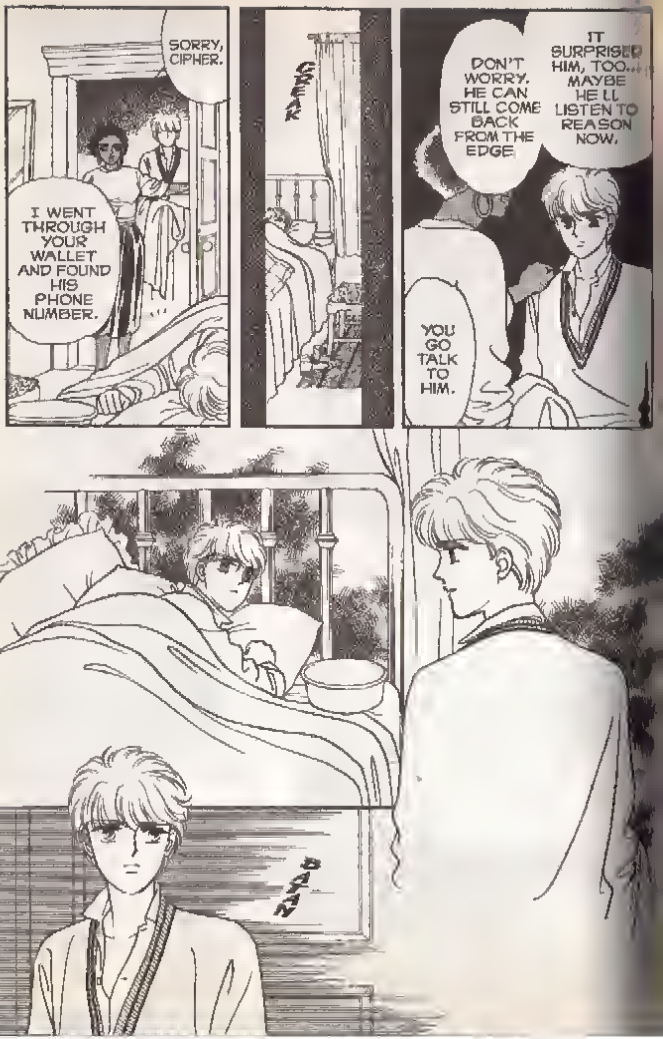
SORRY, CIPHER.
I WENT THROUGH YOUR WALLET AND FOUND HIS PHONE NUMBER.
CREAK
IT SURPRISED HIM, TOO... MAYBE HE'LL LISTEN TO REASON NOW.
DON'T WORRY. HE CAN STILL COME BACK FROM THE EDGE.
YOU GO TALK TO HIM.
DAN

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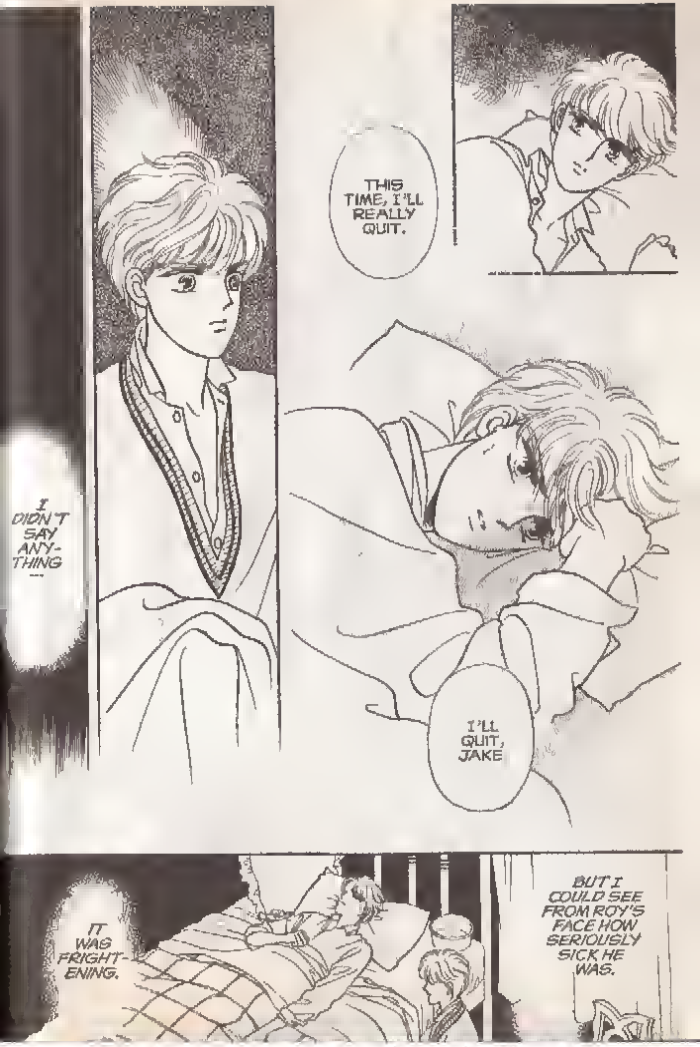
I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING —
THIS TIME, I'LL REALLY QUIT.
I'LL QUIT, JAKE
IT WAS FRIGHT-ENING.
BUT I COULD SEE FROM ROY'S FACE HOW SERIOUSLY SICK HE WAS.

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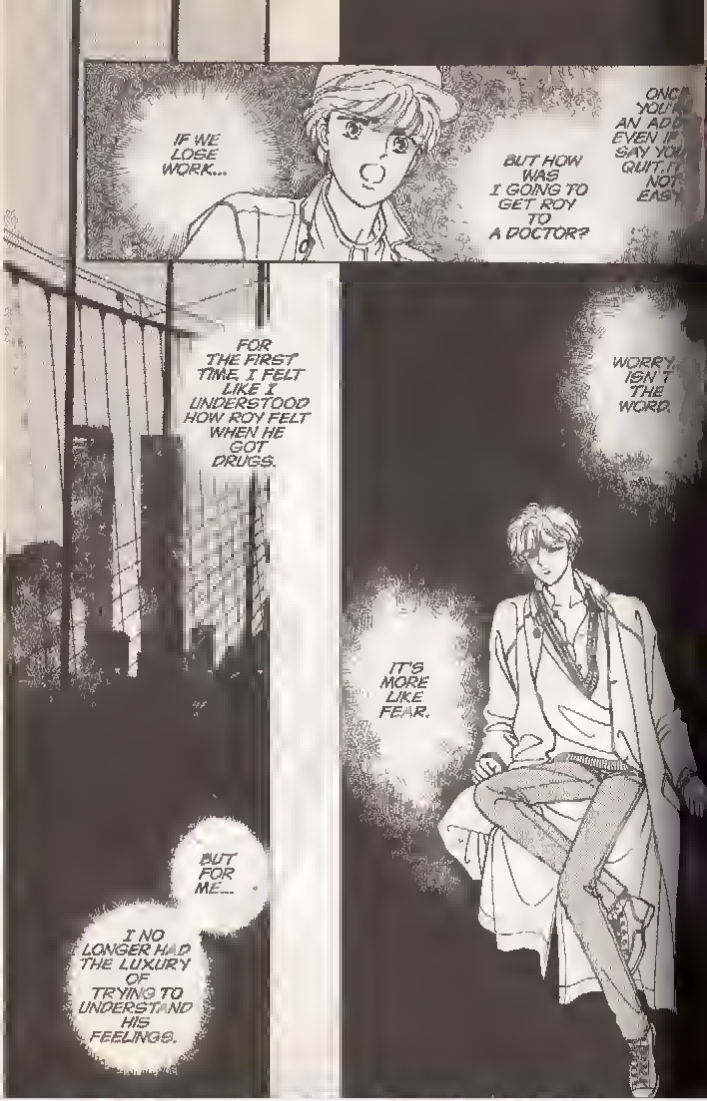
IF WE LOSE WORK...
BUT HOW WAS I GOING TO GET ROY TO A DOCTOR?
ONCE YOU'RE AN ADDICT EVEN IF I SAY YOU QUIT IT'S NOT EASY
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT LIKE I UNDERSTOOD HOW ROY FELT WHEN HE GOT DRUGS.
WORRY, ISN'T THE WORD.
IT'S MORE LIKE FEAR.
BUT FOR ME...
I NO LONGER HAD THE LUXURY OF TRYING TO UNDERSTAND HIS FEELINGS.

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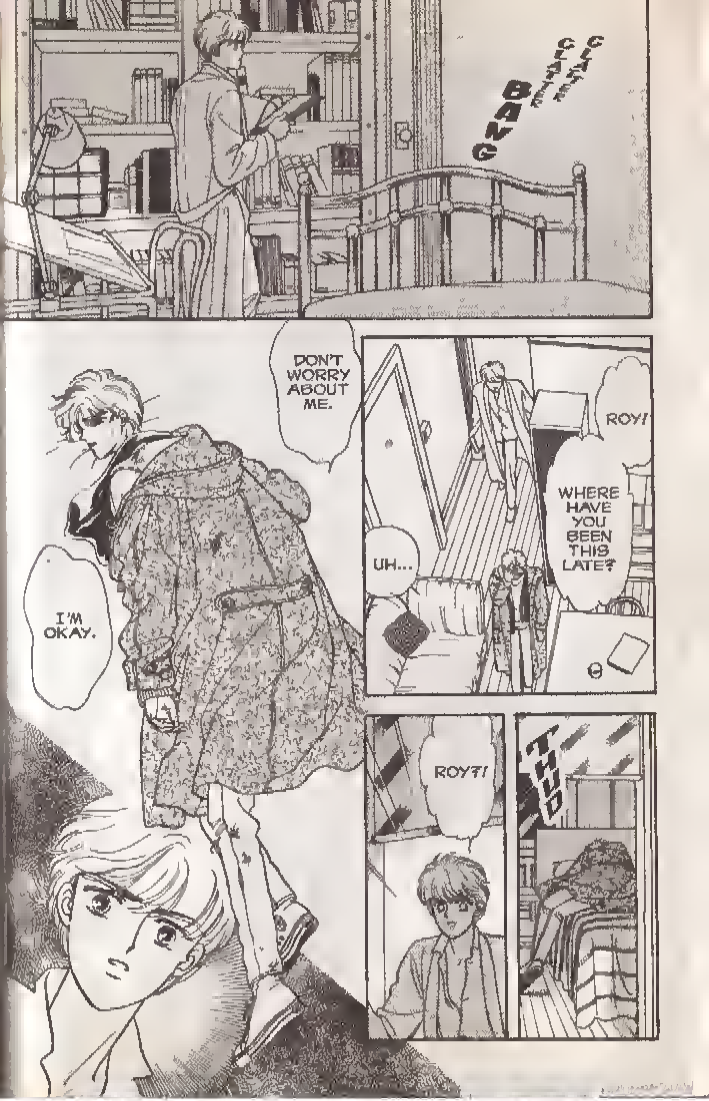

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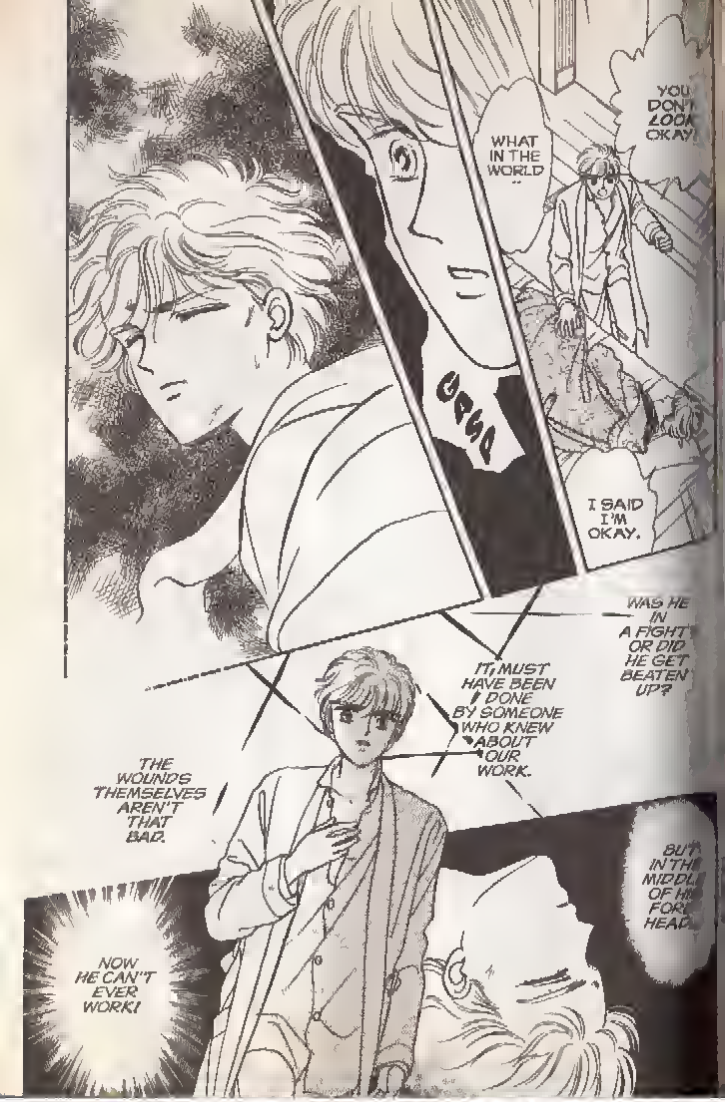
YOU DON'T LOOK OKAY!
WHAT IN THE WORLD ..
I SAID I'M OKAY.
WAS HE IN A FIGHT OR DID HE GET BEATEN UP?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN DONE BY SOMEONE WHO KNEW ABOUT OUR WORK.
THE WOUNDS THEMSELVES AREN'T THAT BAD.
BUT IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS FOREHEAD...
NOW HE CAN'T EVER WORK!

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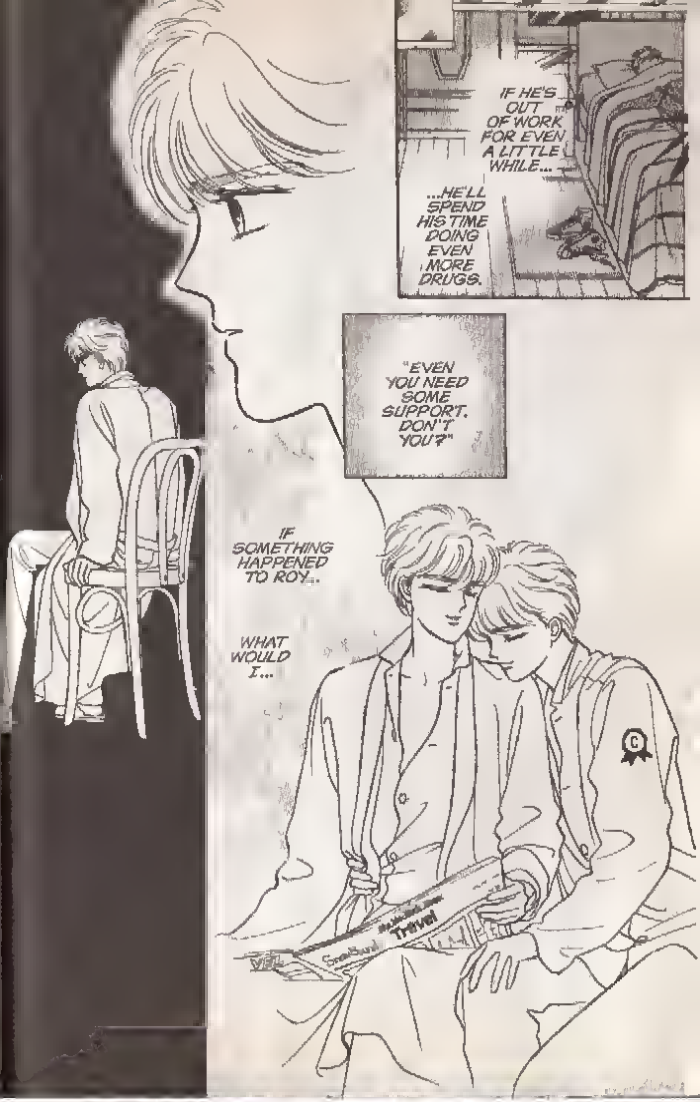
IF HE'S OUT OF WORK FOR EVEN A LITTLE WHILE...
...HE'LL SPEND HIS TIME DOING EVEN MORE DRUGS.
"EVEN YOU NEED SOME SUPPORT, DON'T YOU?"
IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ROY...
WHAT WOULD I...
Travel

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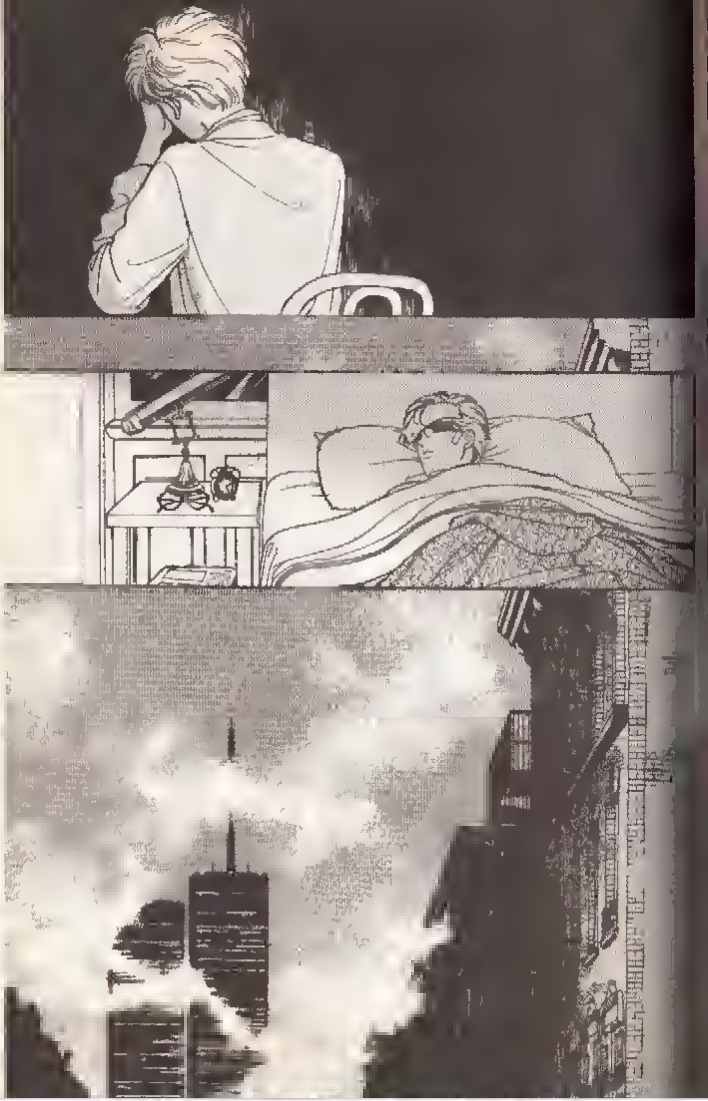

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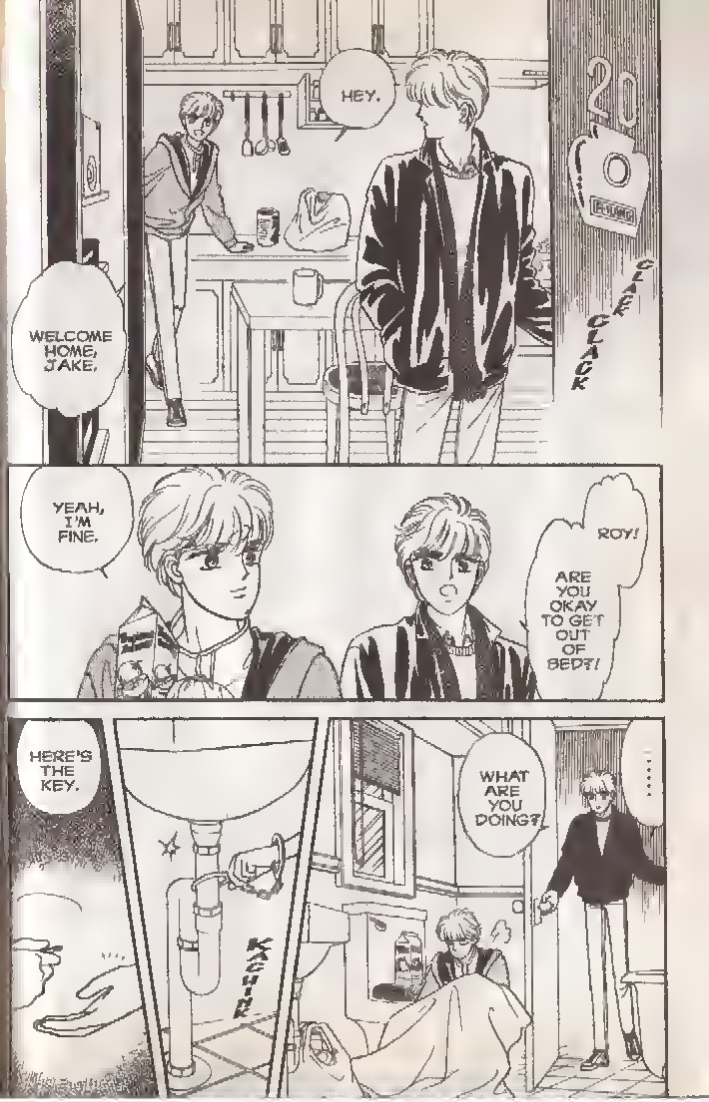

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YOU REALLY...
...WANT TO QUIT DRUGS THAT BAD?
WHY, ALL OF A SUDDEN...
AND THEN GO STAY SOMEPLACE ELSE FOR A WEEK.
I WANT YOU TO TAKE THAT KEY.
CLICK
YEAH.
IT'LL BE TOUGH, BUT I THINK I CAN MAKE IT PAST THE FIRST HURDLE.

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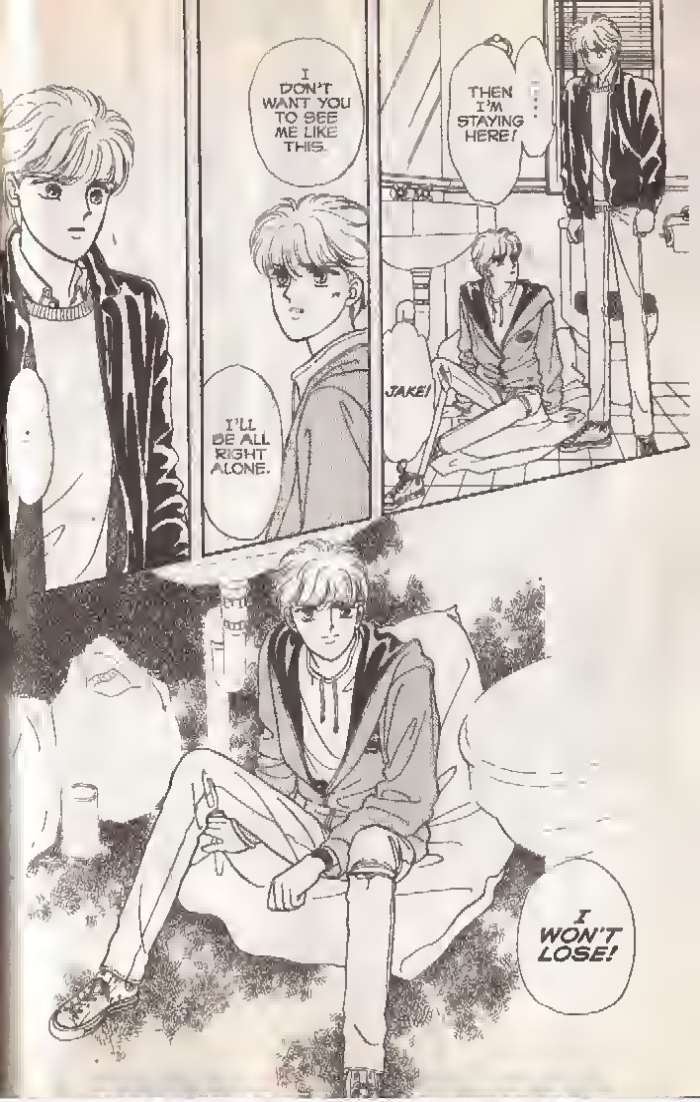

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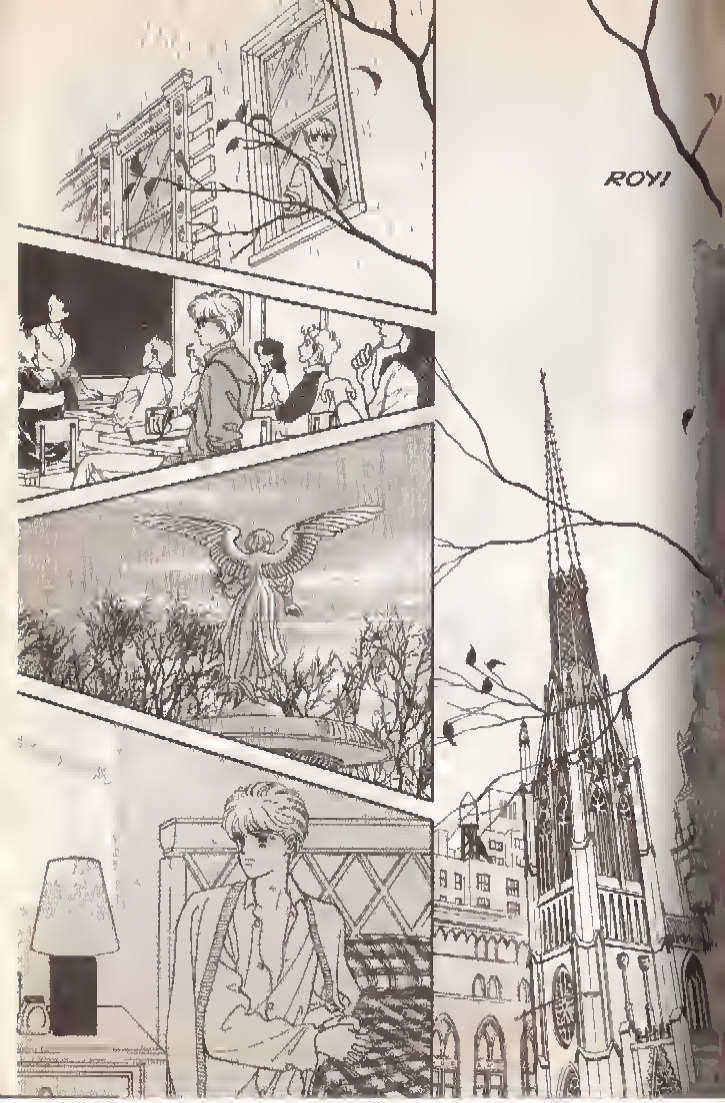

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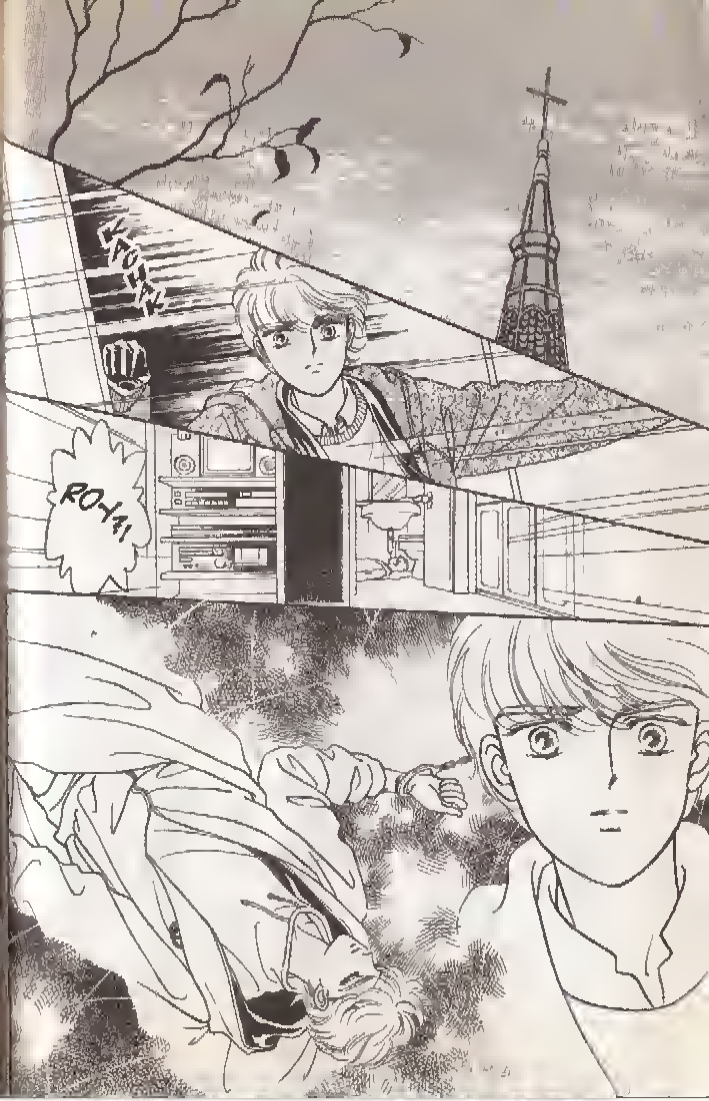

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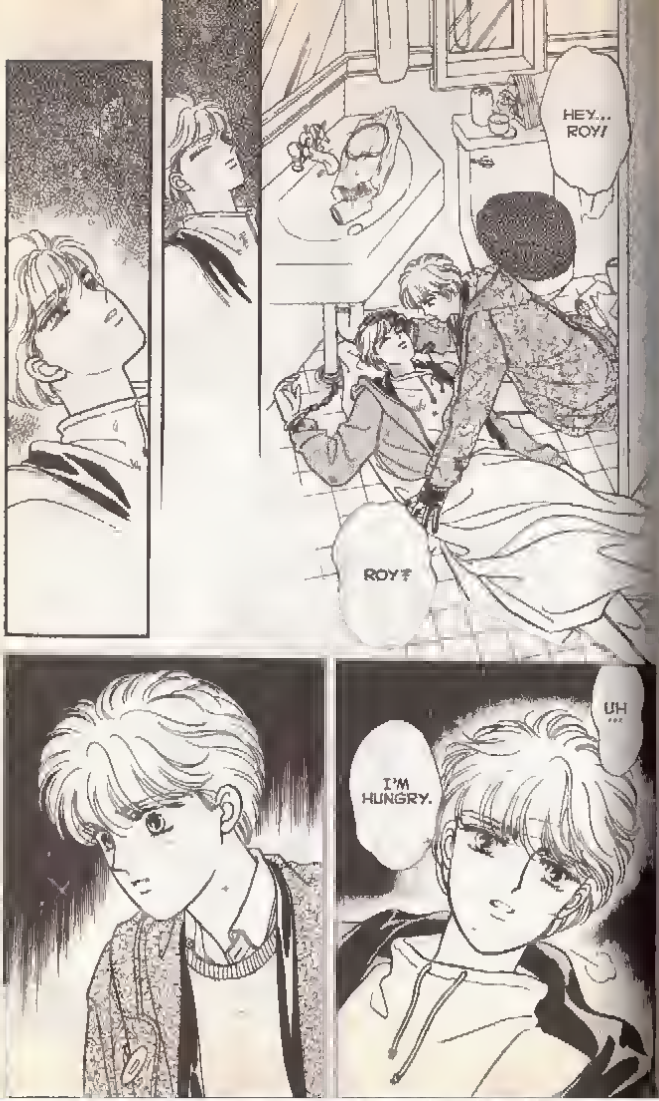

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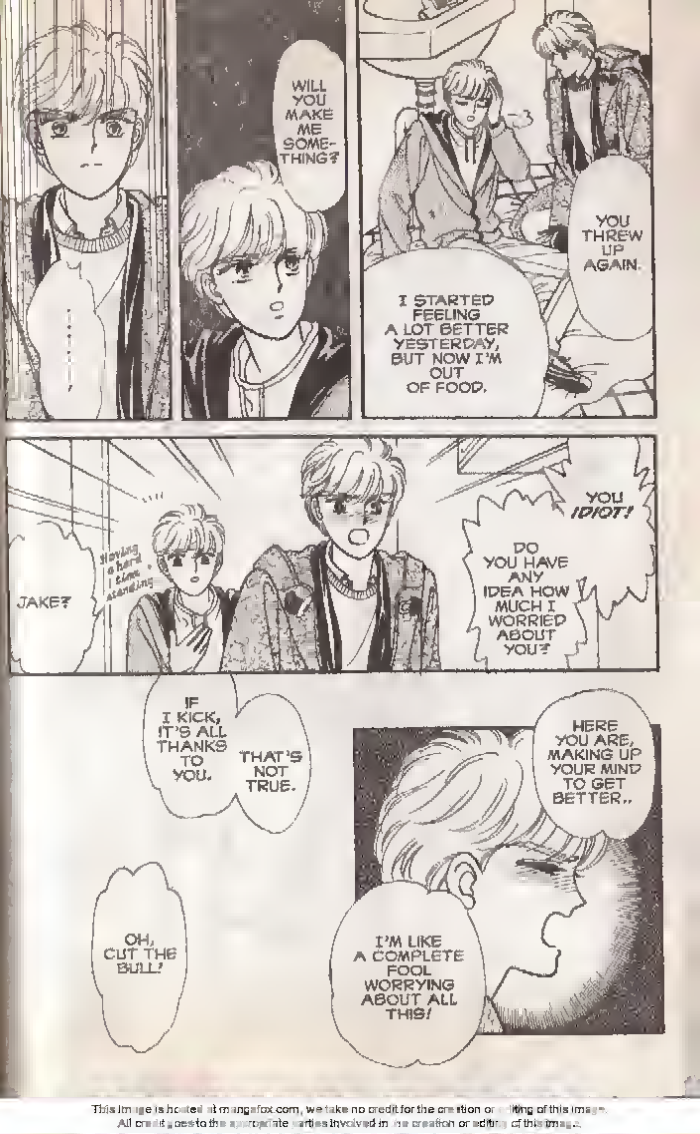
WILL YOU MAKE ME SOME-THING?
YOU THREW UP AGAIN.
I STARTED FEELING A LOT BETTER YESTERDAY, BUT NOW I'M OUT OF FOOD.
JAKE?
Having a hard time standing
YOU IDIOT!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH I WORRIED ABOUT YOU?
IF I KICK, IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
HERE YOU ARE, MAKING UP YOUR MIND TO GET BETTER,,
OH, CUT THE BULL!
I'M LIKE A COMPLETE FOOL WORRYING ABOUT ALL THIS!

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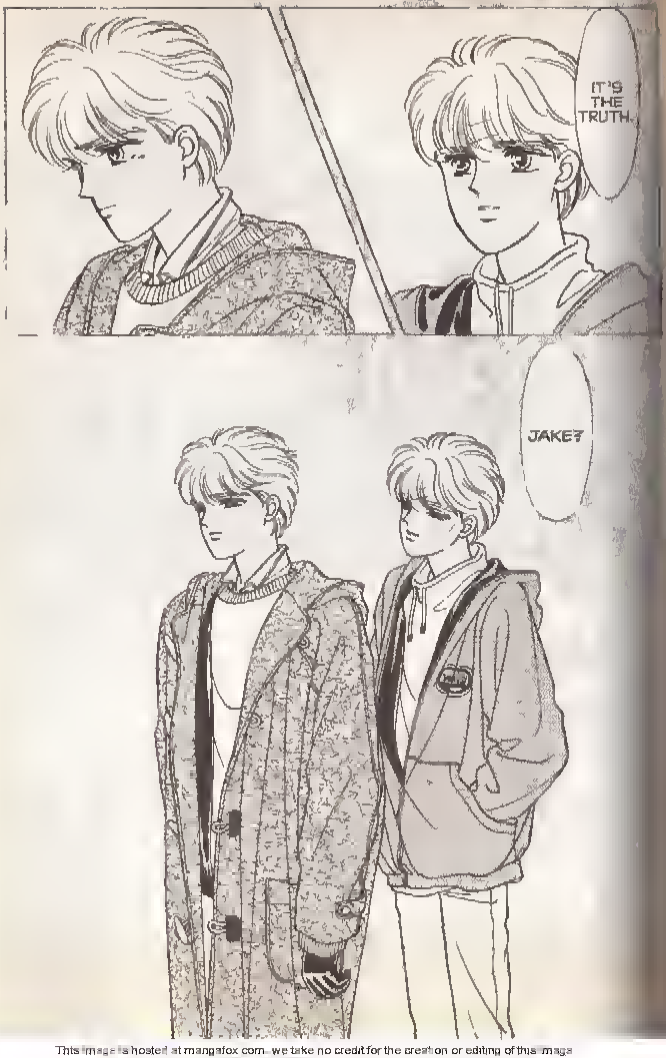

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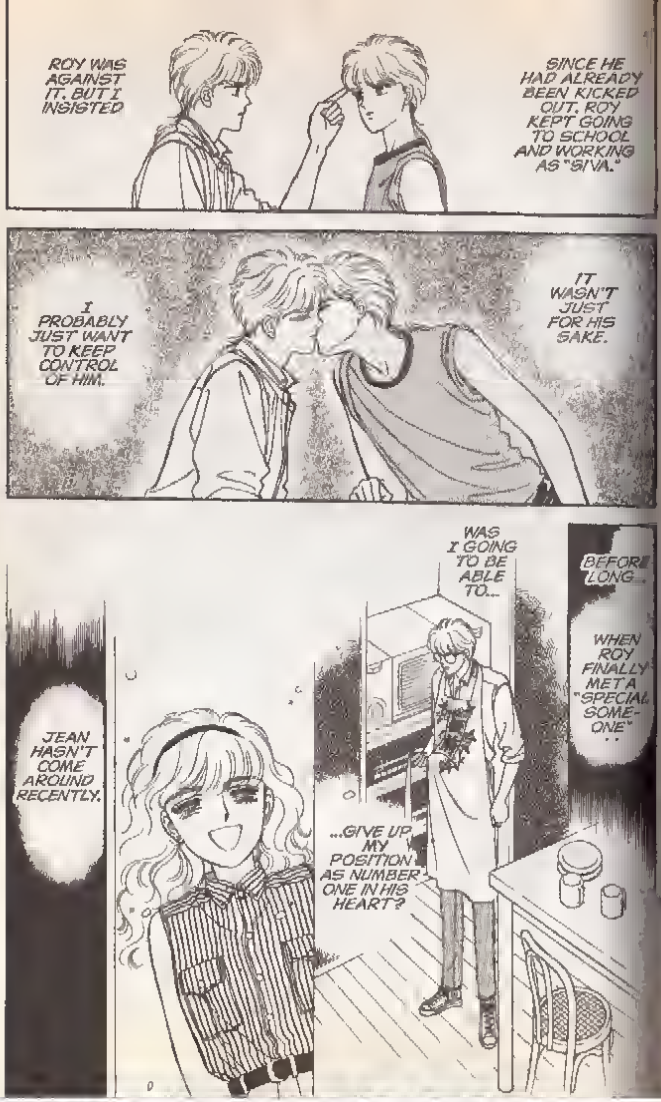
ROY WAS AGAINST IT. BUT I INSISTED
SINCE HE HAD ALREADY BEEN KICKED OUT, ROY KEPT GOING TO SCHOOL AND WORKING AS "SIVA."
I PROBABLY JUST WANT TO KEEP CONTROL OF HIM.
IT WASN'T JUST FOR HIS SAKE.
JEAN HASN'T COME AROUND RECENTLY.
...GIVE UP MY POSITION AS NUMBER ONE IN HIS HEART?
WAS I GOING TO BE ABLE TO...
BEFORE LONG...
WHEN ROY FINALLY MET A "SPECIAL SOME-ONE"...

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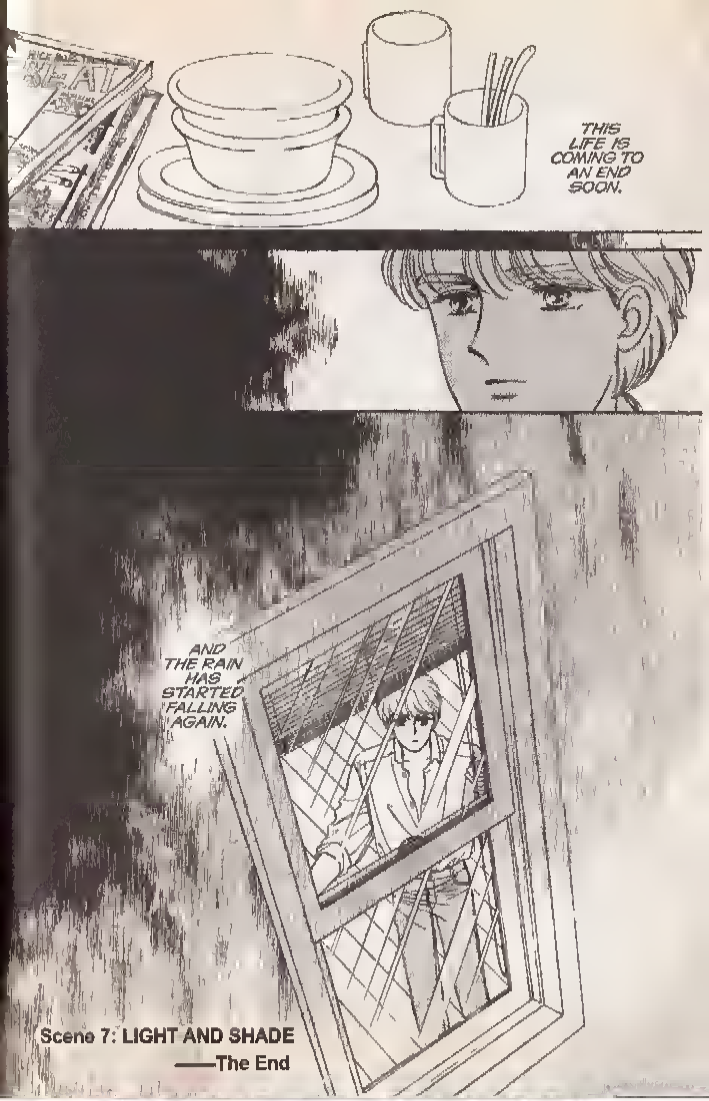

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Scene 8: THE LONG GOODBYE

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NOW THE TIME HAS COME...
TWO TOGETHER, WE FACED THE SUMMER, THANKSGIVING, AND OUR FINAL WINTER.
FOR ALL THESE LONG YEARS, WE EXISTED TOGETHER AS ONE. NOW THESE YEARS ARE OVER.

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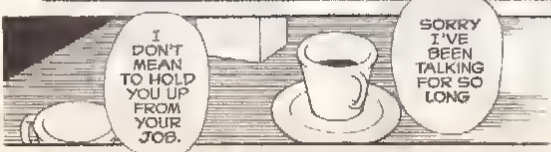

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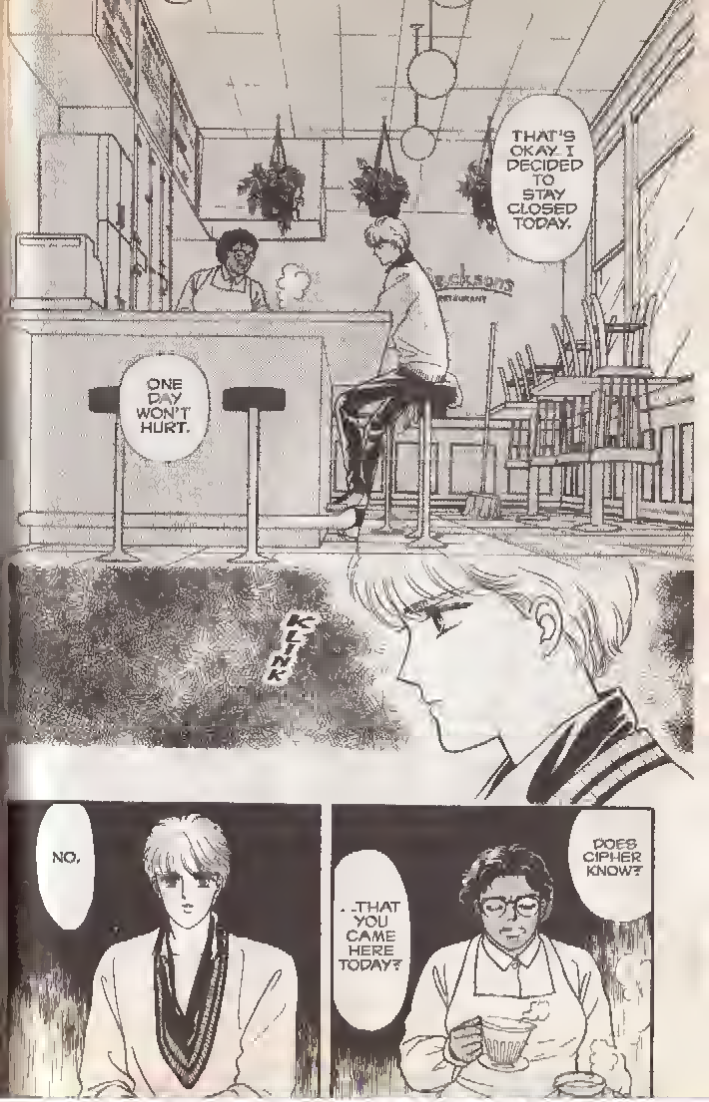

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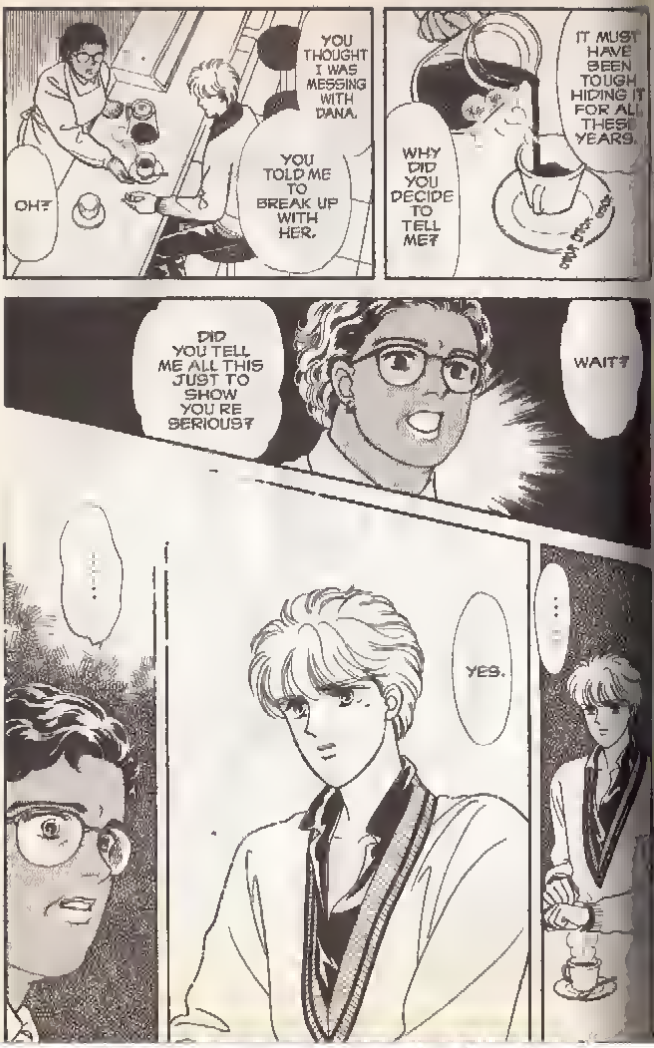
YOU THOUGHT I WAS MESSING WITH DANA.
OH?
YOU TOLD ME TO BREAK UP WITH HER.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH HIDING IT FOR ALL THESE YEARS.
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO TELL ME?
DID YOU TELL ME ALL THIS JUST TO SHOW YOU RE SERIOUS?
WAIT?
...
YES.
...

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THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT, ISN'T IT?
YOU CAME TO SEE IF I'D SAID SOMETHING TO DANA.
THIS WASN'T AN *EASY* THING TO DO, YOU KNOW!
THIS IS SOMETHING REALLY *IMPORTANT* TO ME!
...DANA AND I ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THAT.
THE FACT THAT THERE WERE TWO OF YOU?
I KNOW YOU DON'T MEAN TO HURT MY CHILD.
BUT...
SHE ALWAYS WATCHED THAT T.V. SERIES WE...
YEAH, SHE TOLD ME THAT.
NO THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
BUT SOMETHING AS IMPORTANT AS THIS...

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GOOD AFTERNOON! NARITA HERE! THE STORY IS PRETTY DARK IN THIS VOLUME BUT I MYSELF AM FEELING GREAT. HONESTLY, THOUGH DRAWING THE STORY IN THIS VOLUME WAS PRETTY HARD. EVERY TIME I WAS OUTLINING A NEW STORYBOARD, IN ORDER TO KEEP GOING I HAD TO TELL MYSELF, "THIS ISN'T HOW IT ENDS. THIS IS JUST A PHASE. ALL GOOD STORIES NEED EPISODES LIKE THIS."
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER HAD TO FLOOD THE ROOM WITH LIGHT TO DO THE SKETCHES. I NOTICED THAT BEFORE THAT DRAWING WAS SO MUCH EASIER.
EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THE STORY IS DARK, I'M NOT REALLY A DARK PERSON, SO IT WAS HARD FOR ME
WHEN HE CAME INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO BUY DRUGS.
EVERYBODY AROUND HERE WAS TALKING ABOUT IT.
HE WASN'T REALLY TRYING TO HIDE HIS FACE.
I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE.
OH I S
EVEN IF SOMEBODY HAD SAID SOMETHING ABOUT IT...
WELL....
—YOU BOYS COULD SAY IT WAS JUST GOSSIP. THAT WOULD BE THE END OF IT.
IT NEVER MADE IT INTO THE MEDIA?
BUT

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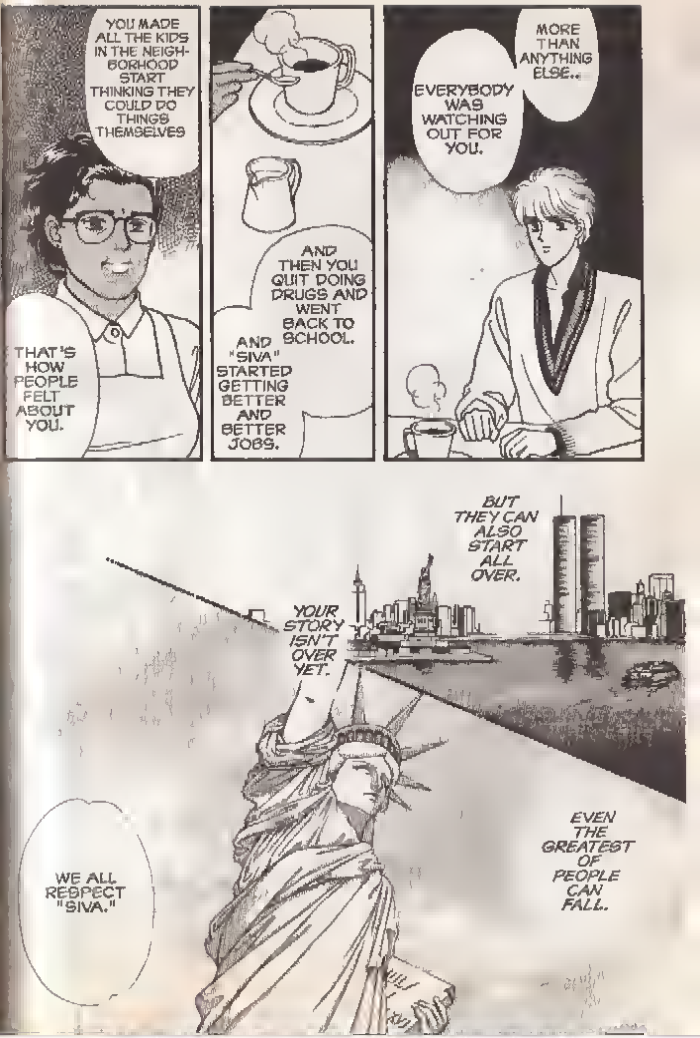
YOU MADE ALL THE KIDS IN THE NEIGH-BORHOOD START THINKING THEY COULD DO THINGS THEMSELVES
THAT'S HOW PEOPLE FELT ABOUT YOU.
AND THEN YOU QUIT DOING DRUGS AND WENT BACK TO SCHOOL.
AND "SIVA" STARTED GETTING BETTER AND BETTER JOBS.
MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE..
EVERYBODY WAS WATCHING OUT FOR YOU.
BUT THEY CAN ALSO START ALL OVER.
YOUR STORY ISN'T OVER YET.
WE ALL RESPECT "SIVA."
EVEN THE GREATEST OF PEOPLE CAN FALL.

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THAT "SIVA" ISN'T ME!
...DANA DOES, TOO.
HE DOESN'T EXIST!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M HUNG UP ON.
IF THINGS GO ON LIKE THIS...
...THEN DANA, AND MAYBE YOU, ARE GOING TO GET HURT.
WHY DON'T YOU...
...TELL DANA THE WHOLE STORY?

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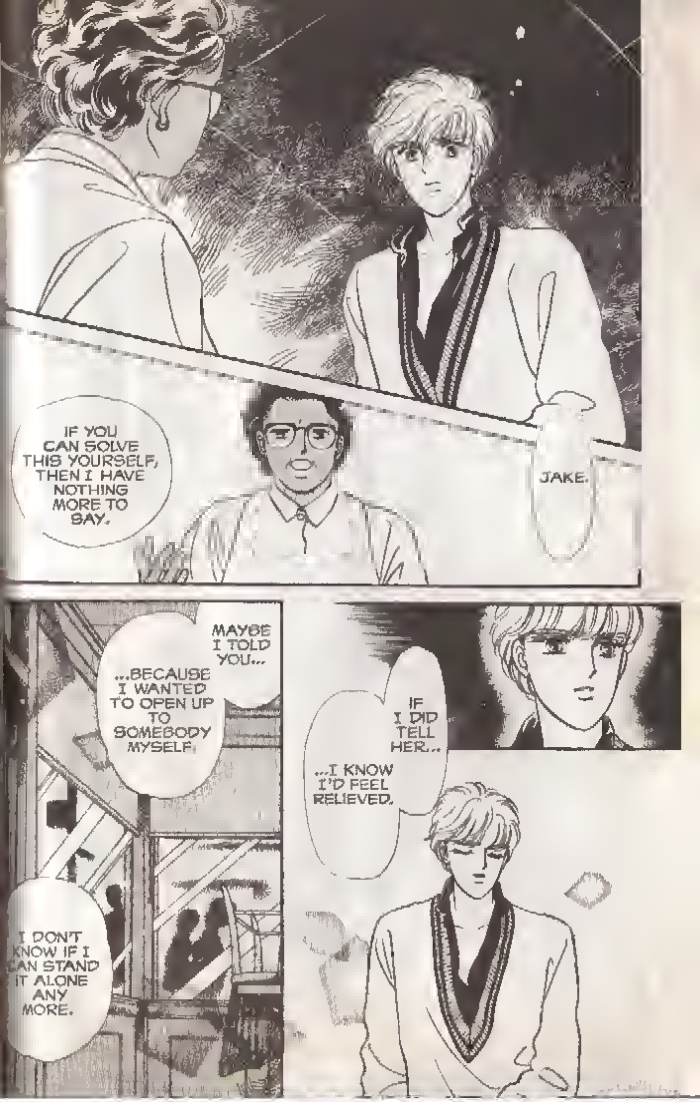
IF YOU CAN SOLVE THIS YOURSELF, THEN I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY.
JAKE.
MAYBE I TOLD YOU...
...BECAUSE I WANTED TO OPEN UP TO SOMEBODY MYSELF.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN STAND IT ALONE ANY MORE.
IF I DID TELL HER...
...I KNOW I'D FEEL RELIEVED.

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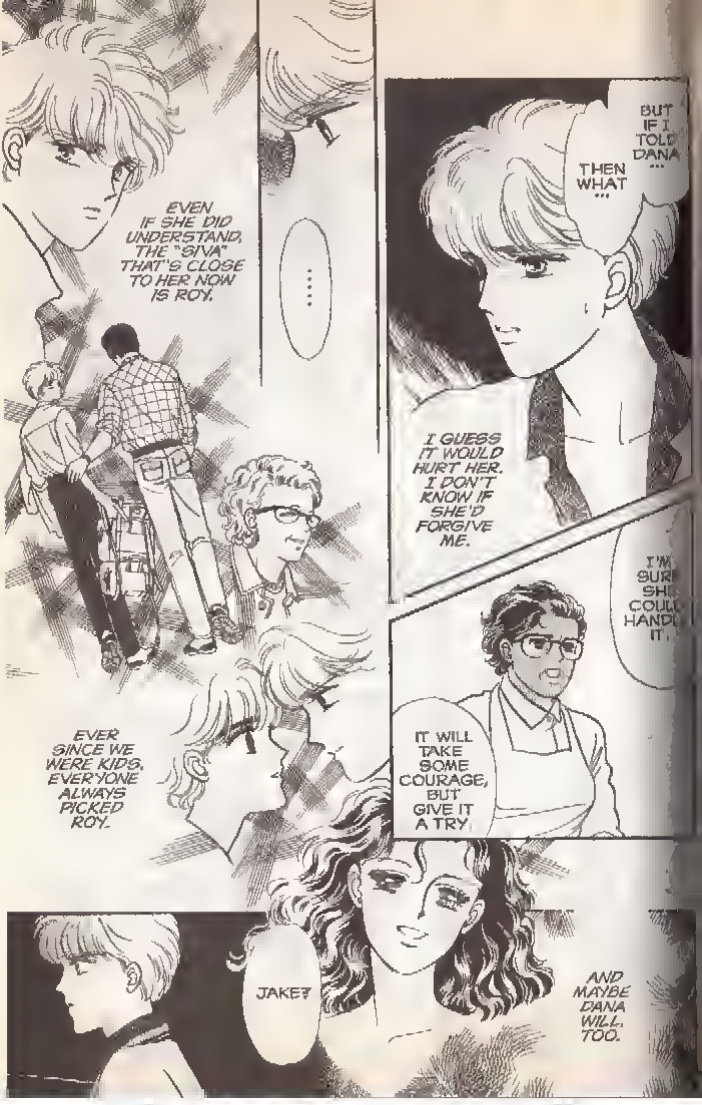
EVEN IF SHE DID UNDERSTAND, THE "DIVA" THAT'S CLOSE TO HER NOW IS ROY.
.....
EVER SINCE WE WERE KIDS, EVERYONE ALWAYS PICKED ROY.
BUT IF I TOLD DANA ...
THEN WHAT ...
I GUESS IT WOULD HURT HER. I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'D FORGIVE ME.
I'M SURE SHE COULD HANDLE IT.
IT WILL TAKE SOME COURAGE, BUT GIVE IT A TRY.
JAKE?
AND MAYBE DANA WILL, TOO.

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JAKE.
JUST GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME TO THINK.
PLEASE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR ME TO TALK TO HER.
SORRY, BUT...
THANK YOU, REALLY.
UNTIL YOU DECIDE TO TALK TO HER, I WON'T SAY ANYTHING.
ALL RIGHT. I SUPPOSE I'M RUSHING YOU TOO MUCH.
UH... NO.
BY THE WAY...
DID YOU EVER ASK CIPHER HOW HE GOT HIS BURN MARK?
I'LL DROP IN AGAIN SOON.
I THINK I'D BETTER BE GOING.

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ROY AND I HAVE ALMOST NEVER...
...TOLD OUR TROUBLES TO EACH OTHER.
SOMETIME I'D LIKE TO HEAR CIPHER TELL HIS VERSION OF THE WHOLE STORY.
I'LL BET IT WOULD COME OUT DIFFERENT.
SLAM
I'M HOME!
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
IT WAS NOTHING.
DID YOU LEAVE ABRUPTLY YESTERDAY? DANA WAS WORRIED.
YOU LEFT SO EARLY THIS MORNING. WHAT'S WRONG?
OH...

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TODAY SURE IS COLD! LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO SNOW!
GOOD AFTER NOON
HI. COME ON IN
SLAM
AGH!
HAVE YOU BEEN EATING PROPERLY?
HEY, SIVA. WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T SOUND GOOD.
PPA

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NO, I JUST GET THIS WAY SOME-TIMES.
BUT YOU'RE A TOTAL MESS! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?!
I BROUGHT SOME ROASTED CHESTNUTS HAVE SOME!
WANT ME TO MAKE YOU SOME COFFEE?
HIS RIBS ARE HIS WEAK POINT. ✝
HEALTHY MEALS, HEALTHY SLEEP, HEALTHY BOWELS!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN EATING WELL.
TOP SHAPE
LATELY, HE'S ALL WORK, WORK, WORK! HE NEVER TAKES A BREAK!
I'M NOT ALL HEALTHY, YOU KNOW.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT CIPHER.

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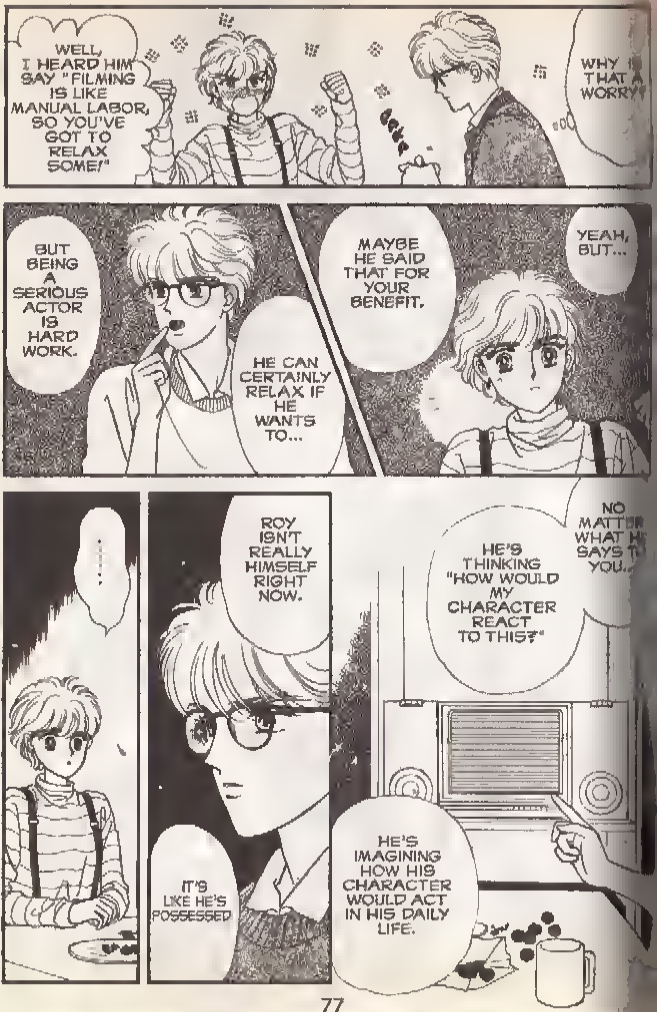
WELL, I HEARD HIM SAY "FILMING IS LIKE MANUAL LABOR, SO YOU'VE GOT TO RELAX SOME!"
WHY IS THAT A WORRY?
BUT BEING A SERIOUS ACTOR IS HARD WORK.
HE CAN CERTAINLY RELAX IF HE WANTS TO...
MAYBE HE SAID THAT FOR YOUR BENEFIT.
YEAH, BUT...
ROY ISN'T REALLY HIMSELF RIGHT NOW.
IT'S LIKE HE'S POSSESSED
HE'S IMAGINING HOW HIS CHARACTER WOULD ACT IN HIS DAILY LIFE.
HE'S THINKING "HOW WOULD MY CHARACTER REACT TO THIS?"
NO MATTER WHAT HE SAYS TO YOU...

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MAYBE JAKE AND DANA...
CIPHER?
THE MORE I TALK WITH ANISE, THE FURTHER AWAY JAKE GETS.
IT'S LIKE SHE'S CREATING A DIVIDE BETWEEN JAKE AND ME.
IT'S MY CO-STAR.
FLAP
FORGET IT.
GOOD NIGHT.
GOING TO BED.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WH...
IT'S RUDE TO STOP TALKING IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVER-SATION!
CIPHER?!

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HAVE YOU HAD AN AIDS TEST...
CIPHER
EH?
YOU USED TO USE NEEDLE DRUGS.
AREN'T YOU WORRIED?
IT MIGHT SPREAD TO YOU.
WE DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD SPREAD A DISEASE!
AND IS THAT THE WAY YOU WANT TO KEEP IT?

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I WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
WHY DIDN'T SAY SO, THEN?!
SORRY, SORRY!
I GOT TESTED I'M NEGATIVE.
GLUNK
I WONDER WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT?
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
THANKS.

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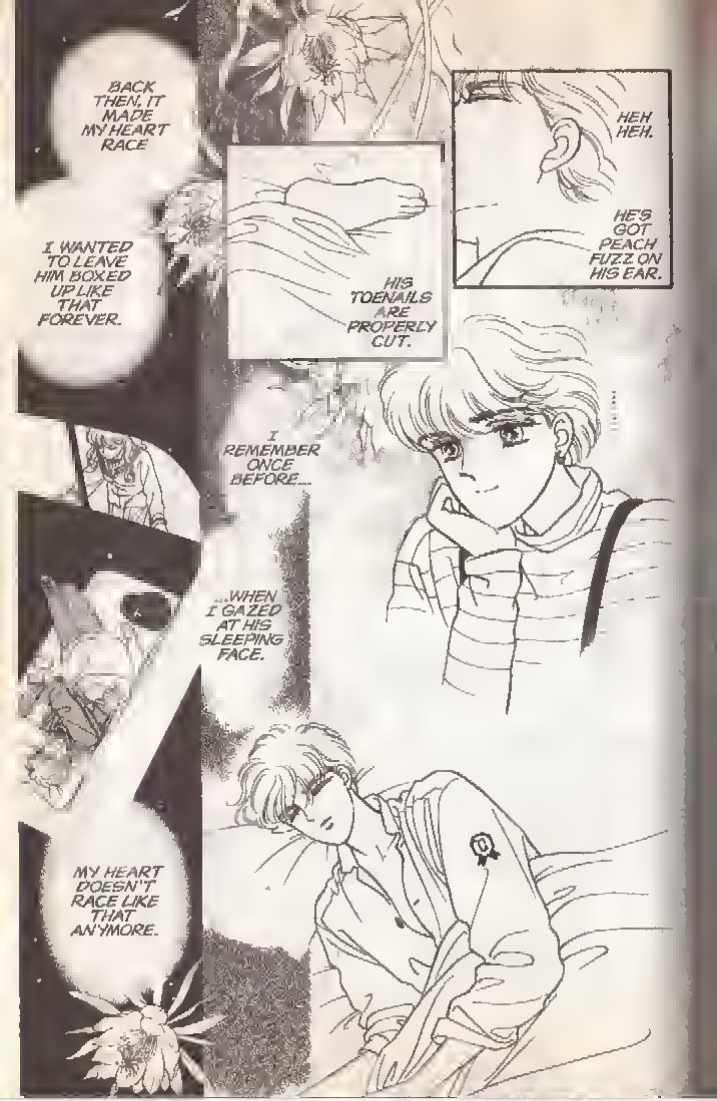
BACK THEN, IT MADE MY HEART RACE
I WANTED TO LEAVE HIM BOXED UP LIKE THAT FOREVER.
HEH HEH.
HE'S GOT PEACH FUZZ ON HIS EAR.
HIS TOENAILS ARE PROPERLY CUT.
I REMEMBER ONCE BEFORE...
...WHEN I GAZED AT HIS SLEEPING FACE.
MY HEART DOESN'T RACE LIKE THAT ANYMORE.

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RATHER THAN KEEP HIM BOXED UP...
INSTEAD OF EXCITED, I FEEL CALM.
BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE I'M SICK OF HIM.
...I WANT TO PROTECT THAT SLEEP.
...AND EVER.
FOR-EVER...

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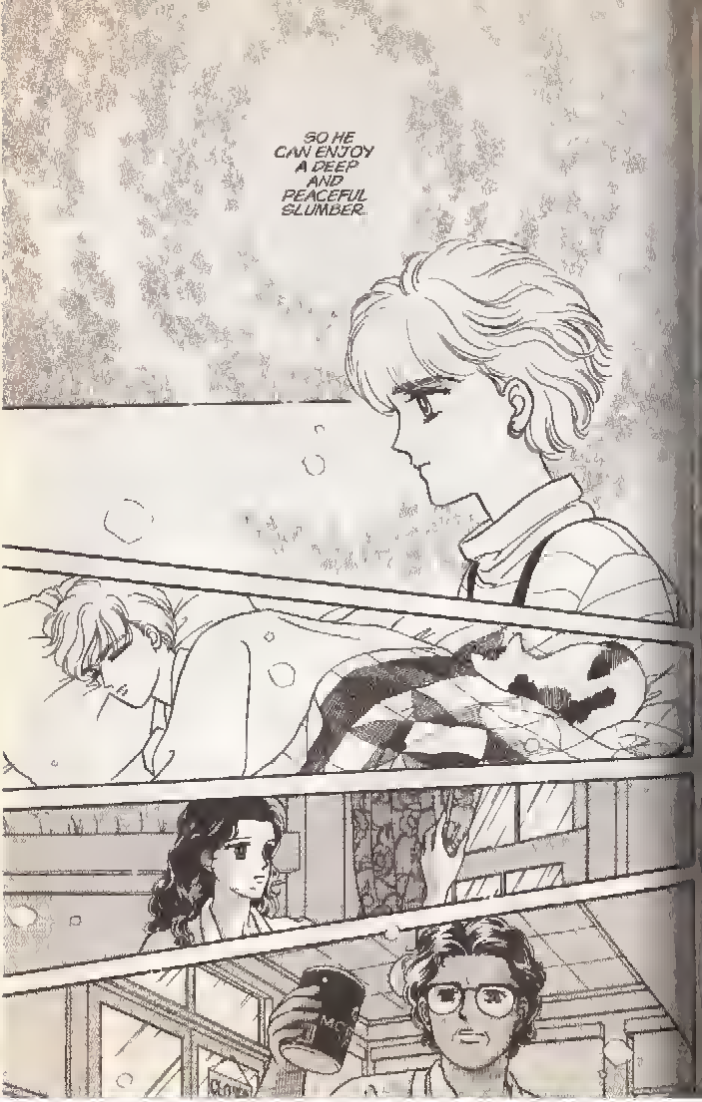

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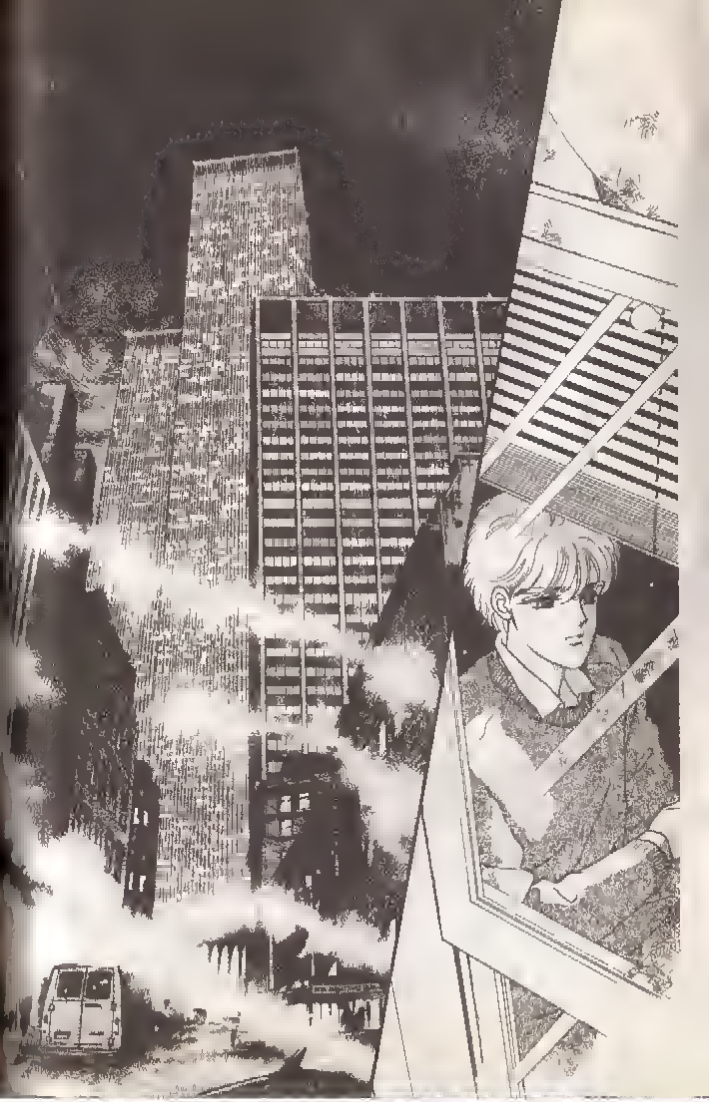

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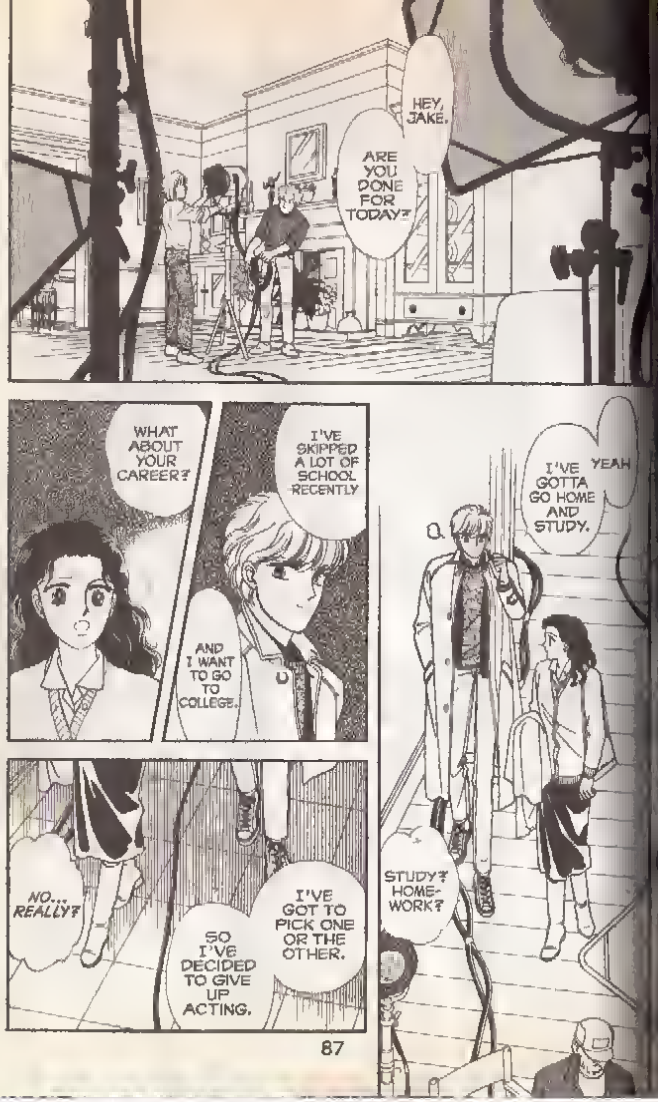
HEY, JAKE.
ARE YOU DONE FOR TODAY?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR CAREER?
I'VE SKIPPED A LOT OF SCHOOL RECENTLY
AND I WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE.
YEAH
I'VE GOTTA GO HOME AND STUDY.
STUDY? HOME-WORK?
NO... REALLY?
SO I'VE DECIDED TO GIVE UP ACTING.
I'VE GOT TO PICK ONE OR THE OTHER.

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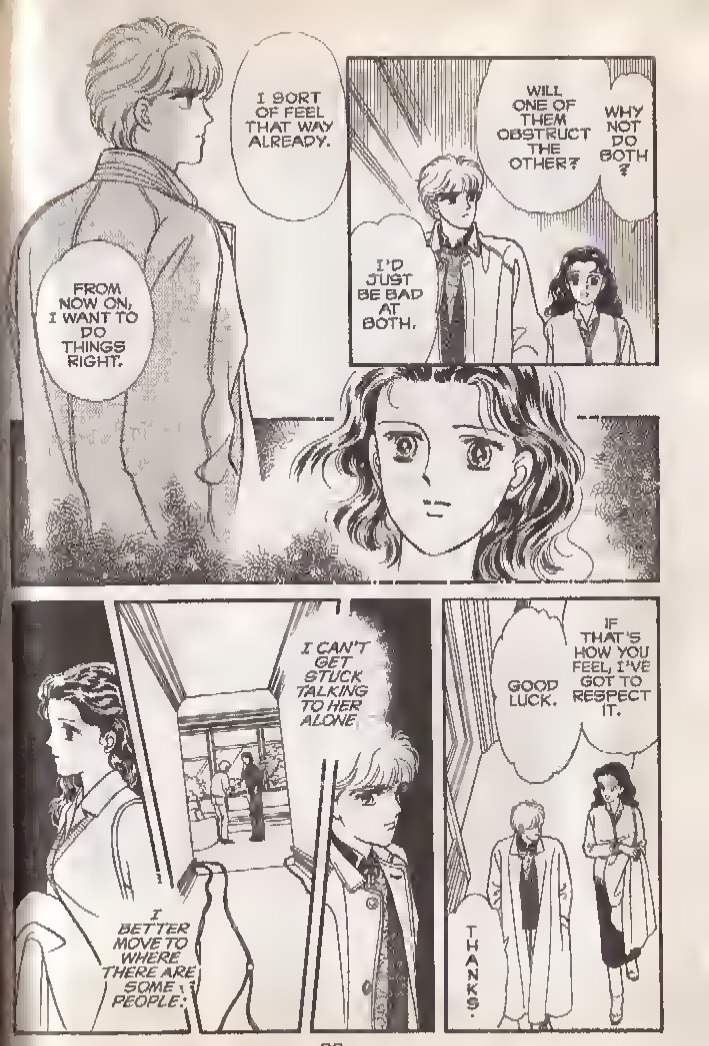
I SORT OF FEEL THAT WAY ALREADY.
FROM NOW ON, I WANT TO DO THINGS RIGHT.
WILL ONE OF THEM OBSTRUCT THE OTHER?
WHY NOT DO BOTH?
I'D JUST BE BAD AT BOTH.
I CAN'T GET STUCK TALKING TO HER ALONE.
I BETTER MOVE TO WHERE THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE.
IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, I'VE GOT TO RESPECT IT.
GOOD LUCK.
THANKS.

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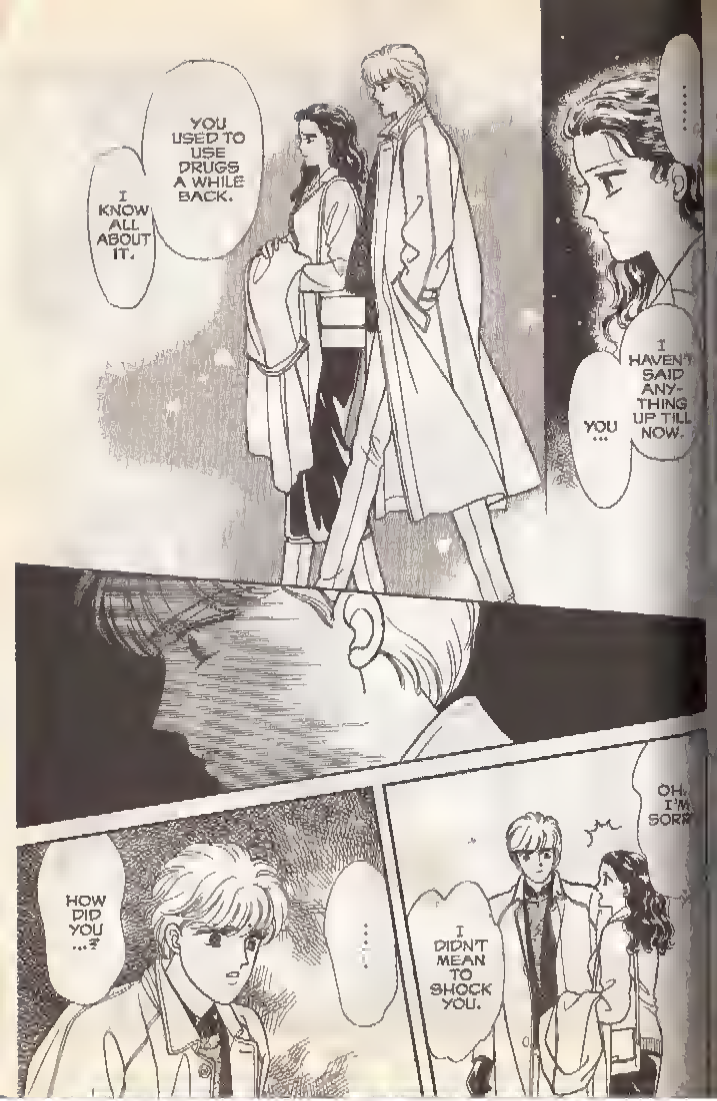
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.
YOU USED TO USE DRUGS A WHILE BACK.
YOU ...
I HAVEN'T SAID ANY-THING UP TILL NOW.
.....
OH, I'M SORR
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOCK YOU.
HOW DID YOU ...?
.....

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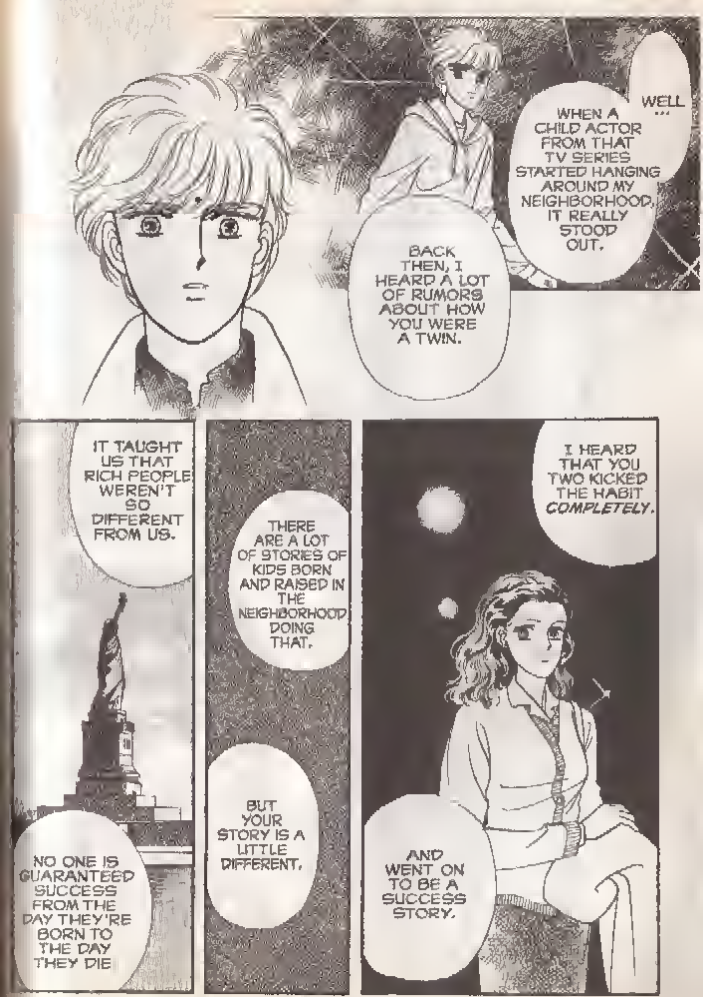
WELL ...
WHEN A CHILD ACTOR FROM THAT TV SERIES STARTED HANGING AROUND MY NEIGHBORHOOD, IT REALLY STOOD OUT.
BACK THEN, I HEARD A LOT OF RUMORS ABOUT HOW YOU WERE A TWIN.
IT TAUGHT US THAT RICH PEOPLE WEREN'T SO DIFFERENT FROM US.
NO ONE IS GUARANTEED SUCCESS FROM THE DAY THEY'RE BORN TO THE DAY THEY DIE
THERE ARE A LOT OF STORIES OF KIDS BORN AND RAISED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD DOING THAT.
BUT YOUR STORY IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
I HEARD THAT YOU TWO KICKED THE HABIT COMPLETELY.
AND WENT ON TO BE A SUCCESS STORY.

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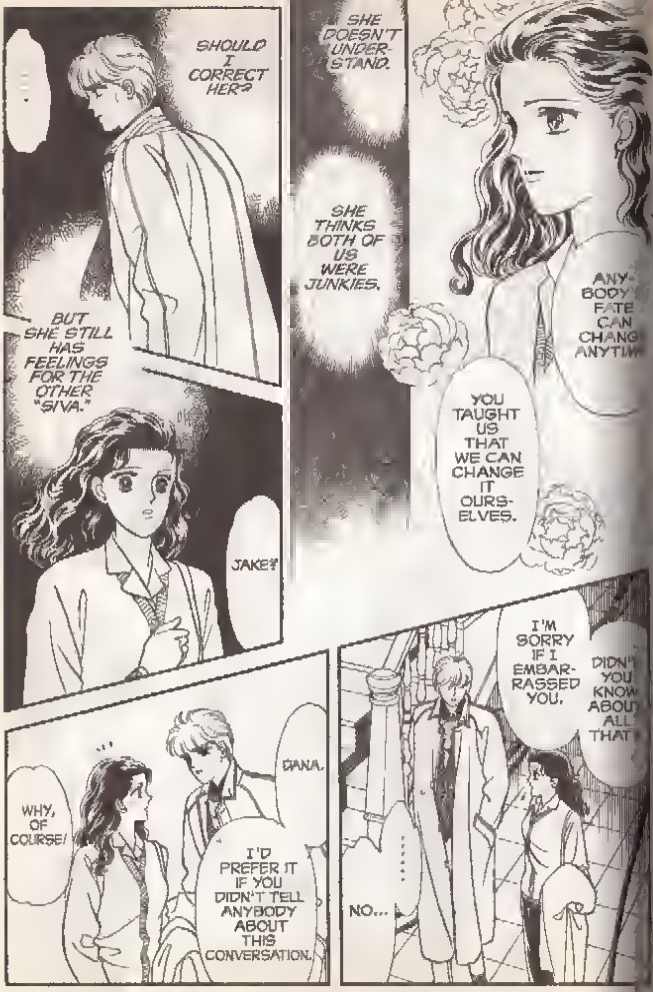
SHOULD I CORRECT HER?
BUT SHE STILL HAS FEELINGS FOR THE OTHER "SIVA."
JAKE?
SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.
SHE THINKS BOTH OF US WERE JUNKIES.
ANYBODY'S FATE CAN CHANG ANYTIM
YOU TAUGHT US THAT WE CAN CHANGE IT OURSELVES.
I'M SORRY IF I EMBARRASSED YOU.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW ABOUT ALL THAT?
NO...
DANA.
WHY, OF COURSE!
I'D PREFER IT IF YOU DIDN'T TELL ANYBODY ABOUT THIS CONVERSATION.

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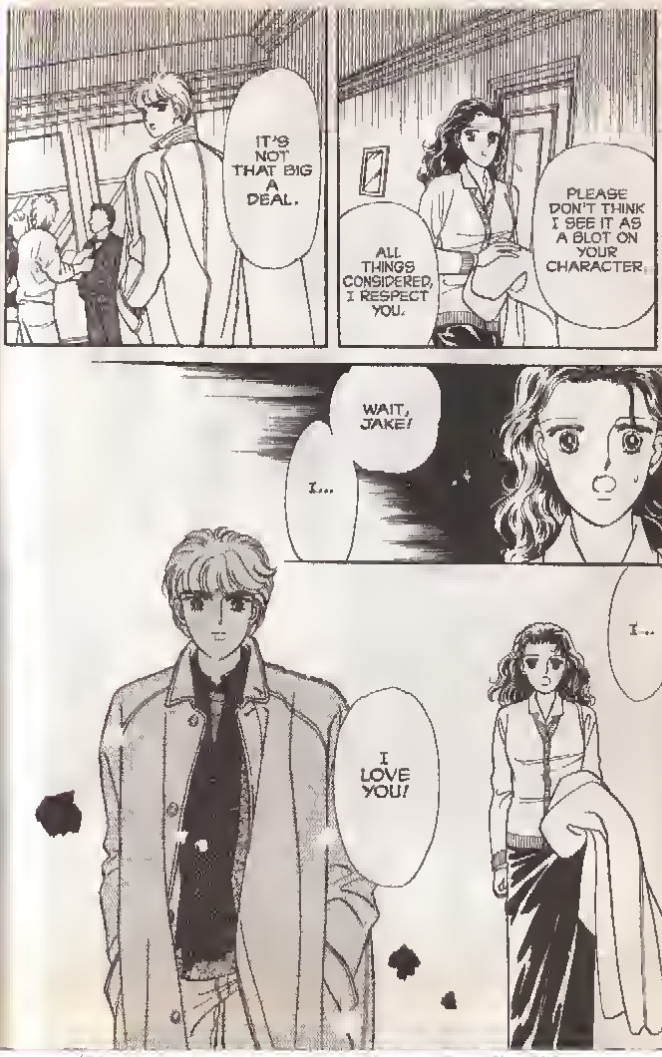
IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I RESPECT YOU.
PLEASE DON'T THINK I SEE IT AS A BLOT ON YOUR CHARACTER.
WAIT, JAKE!
I...
I LOVE YOU!
I...

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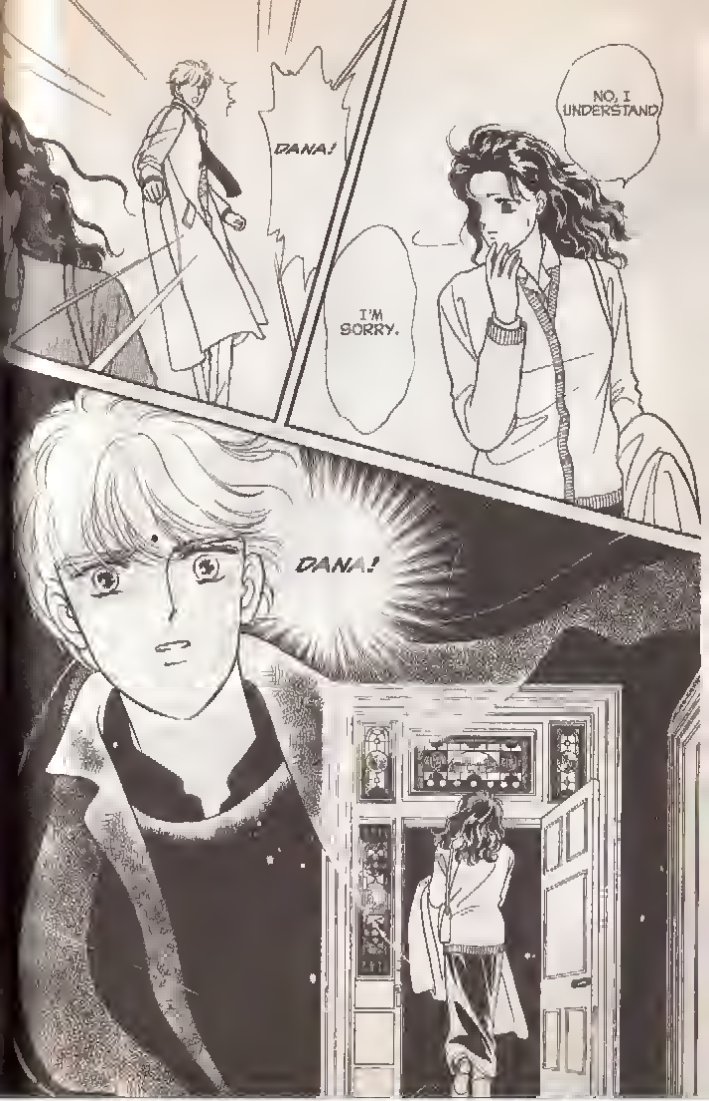

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SHE SAID SHE LOVES ME.
WHAT'S WHAT'S WRONG?
I WAS TRYING TO MOVE TO WHERE SOME PEOPLE WERE.
DANA STARTED TALKING TO ME AS I WAS LEAVING
AND THEN?! WHAT DID DANA DO?!
I WAS SO SURPRISED I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BACK.
!
SHE SAID "I UNDERSTAND." THAT'S ALL.

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GET OUTTA THE WAY!
JAKE, WAIT!
BAM
CALM DOWN! IF YOU GO TO HER, THEN WHAT? THINK ABOUT IT!
WE'VE GOT TO DECIDE WHAT TO TELL HER! OTHERWISE, IT'S THE SAME THING ALL OVER AGAIN.
WE'VE GOT TO TALK ABOUT THIS!
IF YOU LEAVE IT TO ME, I'VE GOT A PLAN.
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT ON THE WAY HOME.
LET'S WAIT TO ANSWER HER.
JAKE.
PLOP
.....

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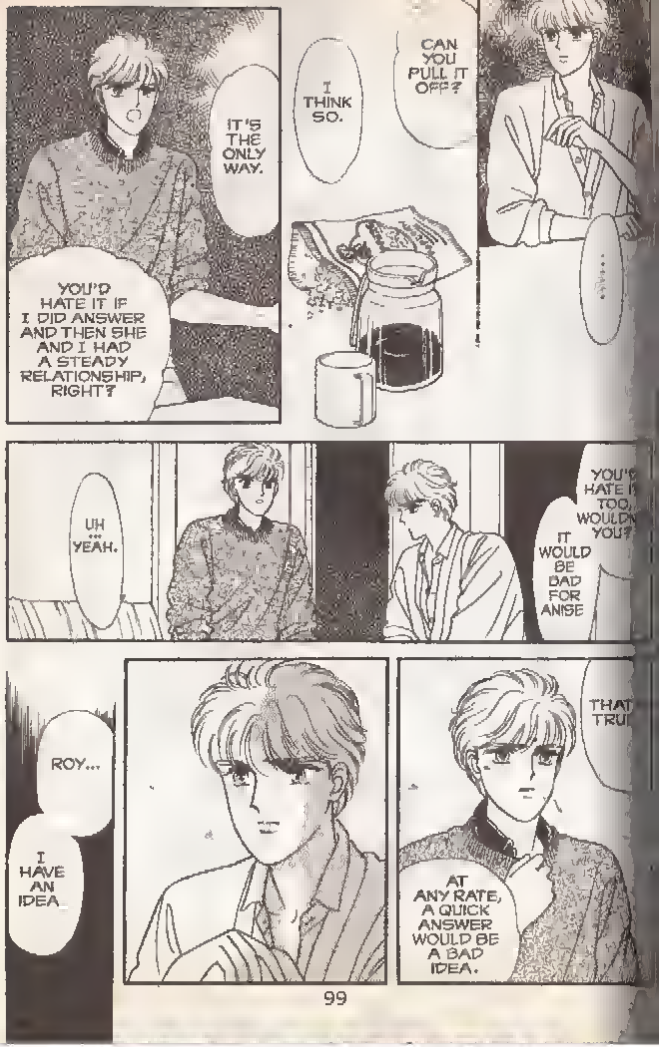
IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
YOU'D HATE IT IF I DID ANSWER AND THEN SHE AND I HAD A STEADY RELATIONSHIP, RIGHT?
I THINK SO.
CAN YOU PULL IT OFF?
UH ... YEAH.
YOU'D HATE IT TOO, WOULDN'T YOU?
IT WOULD BE BAD FOR ANISE
ROY...
I HAVE AN IDEA.
AT ANY RATE, A QUICK ANSWER WOULD BE A BAD IDEA.
THAT TRU

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NO!
WE CAN'T! DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!
IT'S JUST A THOUGHT, BUT...
WHAT IF WE TOLD DANA THE TRUTH ABOUT US?
!
IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN'T BEAR NOT TO TELL HER...
...THEN AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL THE JOB IS OVER!
I'D WANT ANY GIRL I LIKED TO BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US.
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D WANT TO TELL HER.
BUT, LOOK... THERE'S ONLY THREE DAYS LEFT OF SHOOTING!

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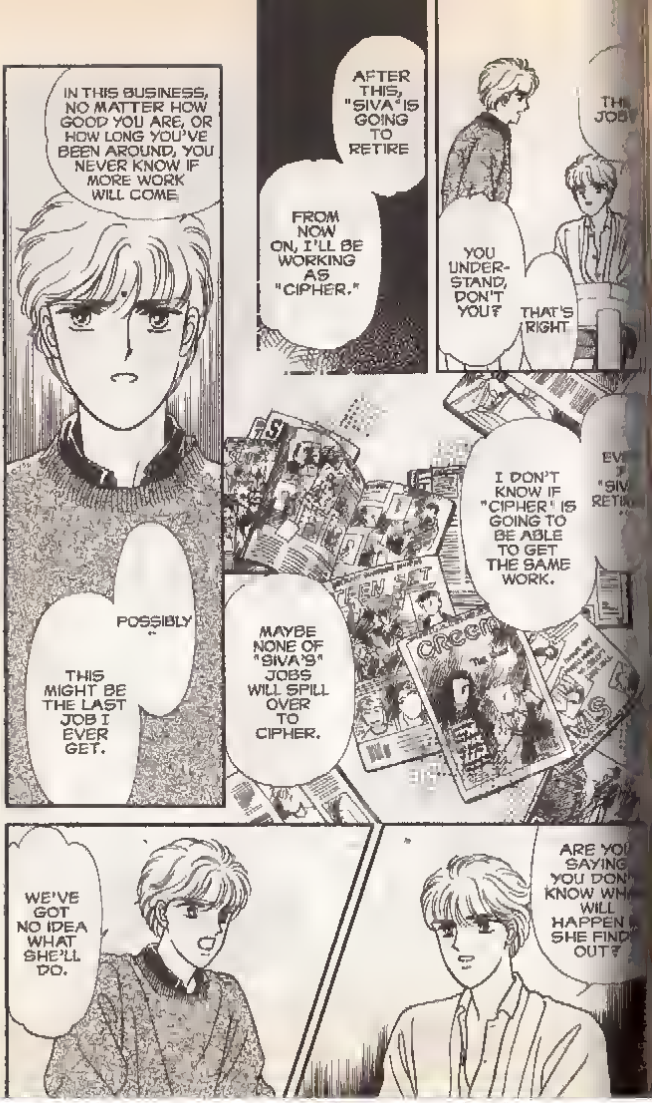
IN THIS BUSINESS, NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOU ARE, OR HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN AROUND, YOU NEVER KNOW IF MORE WORK WILL COME.
THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST JOB I EVER GET.
POSSIBLY
AFTER THIS, "SIVA" IS GOING TO RETIRE
FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE WORKING AS "CIPHER."
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?
I DON'T KNOW IF "CIPHER" IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET THE SAME WORK.
MAYBE NONE OF "SIVA'S" JOBS WILL SPILL OVER TO CIPHER.
WE'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT SHE'LL DO.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF SHE FINDS OUT?

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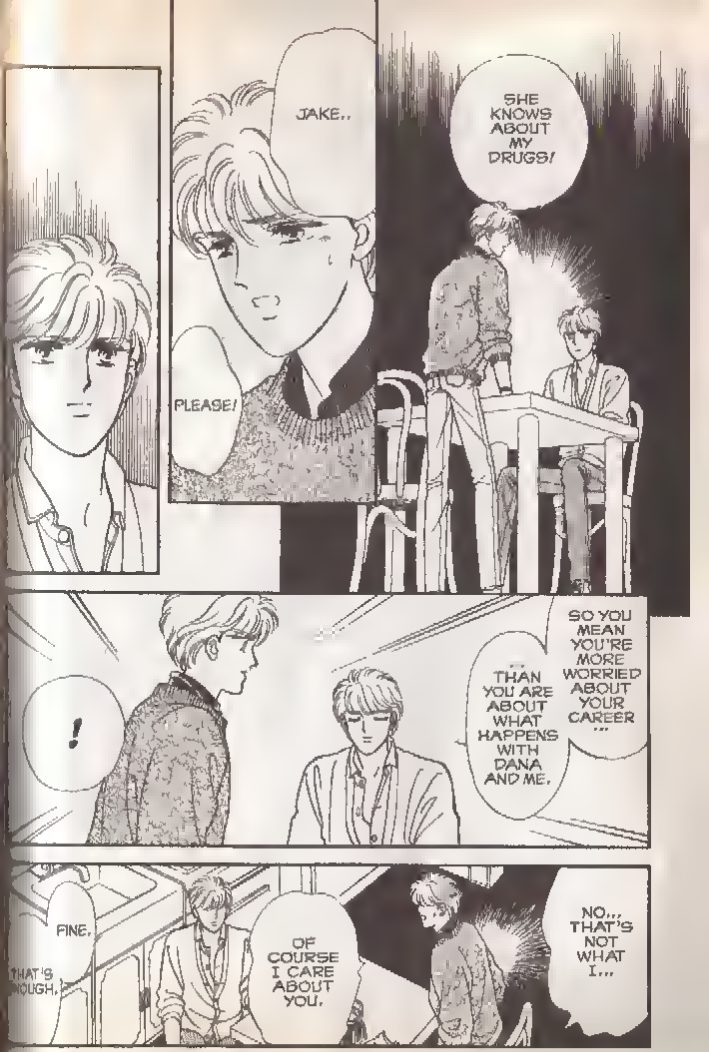
JAKE..
PLEASE!
SHE KNOWS ABOUT MY DRUGS!
!
...THAN YOU ARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WITH DANA AND ME.
SO YOU MEAN YOU'RE MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CAREER ...
FINE.
THAT'S ENOUGH.
OF COURSE I CARE ABOUT YOU.
NO... THAT'S NOT WHAT I...

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SO WE'RE EVEN.
WE'RE ALL THE SAME.
I WASN'T THINKING OF YOUR WORK.
ALL I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IS WHAT SHE THINKS OF ME.
!
I JUST ASK YOU NOT TO HURT HER
THAT'S THE ONLY THING I CARE ABOUT.
IF YOU WANT, I'LL WAIT TO ANSWER HER.
ANYWAY ...I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

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THIS IS AN OLD PICTURE OF TOM BAILEY. TO THE LEFT IS ALANNAH. THEY BOTH LOOK PRETTY SCARY.

THAT'S RIGHT! I LOVE THE THOMPSON TWINS EVEN NOW! I'VE KEPT ON HAVING DREAMS ABOUT THEM ABOUT 75 TIMES NOW. WHAT IS MORE THE GUYS THEMSELVES DON'T GO OUT IN PUBLIC MUCH. RECENTLY (AFTER A LONG ABSENCE) I SAW THEM PLAY AT THE MONTEREY ROCK FESTIVAL ON TELEVISION. JUST TO BE SURE, I ASKED THREE PEOPLE TO RECORD IT. AT MY OWN HOUSE, I SET UP A PROFESSIONAL TAPE MACHINE TO RECORD IT. I WAITED AND WAITED. AND WHEN THEY FINALLY CAME OUT, I STARTED TO CRY! I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY I CRIED WHEN I WAS SO HAPPY... IT IS KIND OF STRANGE. ANYWAY, I COULD TELL I STILL LOVED THEM.

THIS IS TOM FROM 'OIL'. I DON'T WANT TO DRAW HIM MY HAND (CUZ HIS FACE IS SO PRETTY).

THEY COULDN'T SEPARATE US EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO.

"JAKE AND ROY."

"DO YOU KNOW THE REAL NAMES OF THE TWIN TOWERS?"

IF WE WERE TO SEPARATE, WE WOULDN'T BE "US" ANYMORE.

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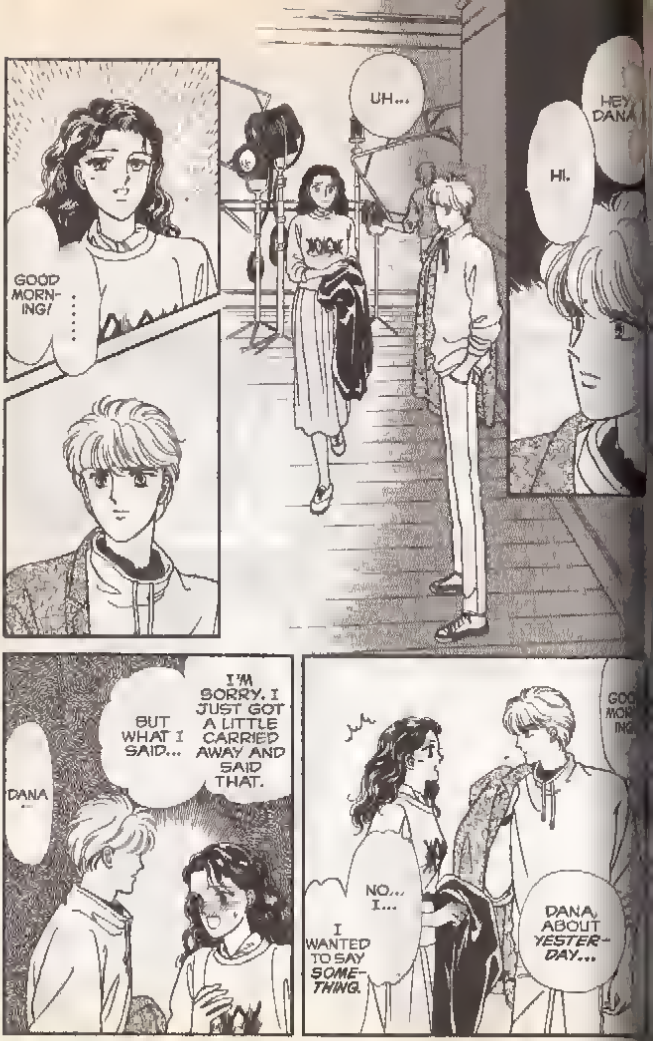

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LOOK...
THERE'S A GIRL I'VE BEEN GOING OUT WITH FOR A WHILE.
WAIT. I'M NOT FINISHED.
OH... I SEE...
I HAD NO IDEA.
I'VE KNOWN HER SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
BUT RECENTLY WE'VE BEEN MEETING LESS AND LESS
I THINK SHE'S INTERESTED IN SOMEONE ELSE.
WE'RE SORT OF DRIFTING APART.
YESTERDAY, I THOUGHT OF HER...
...AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
I NEED TO TALK TO HER...
...AND SORT OUT MY FEELINGS.

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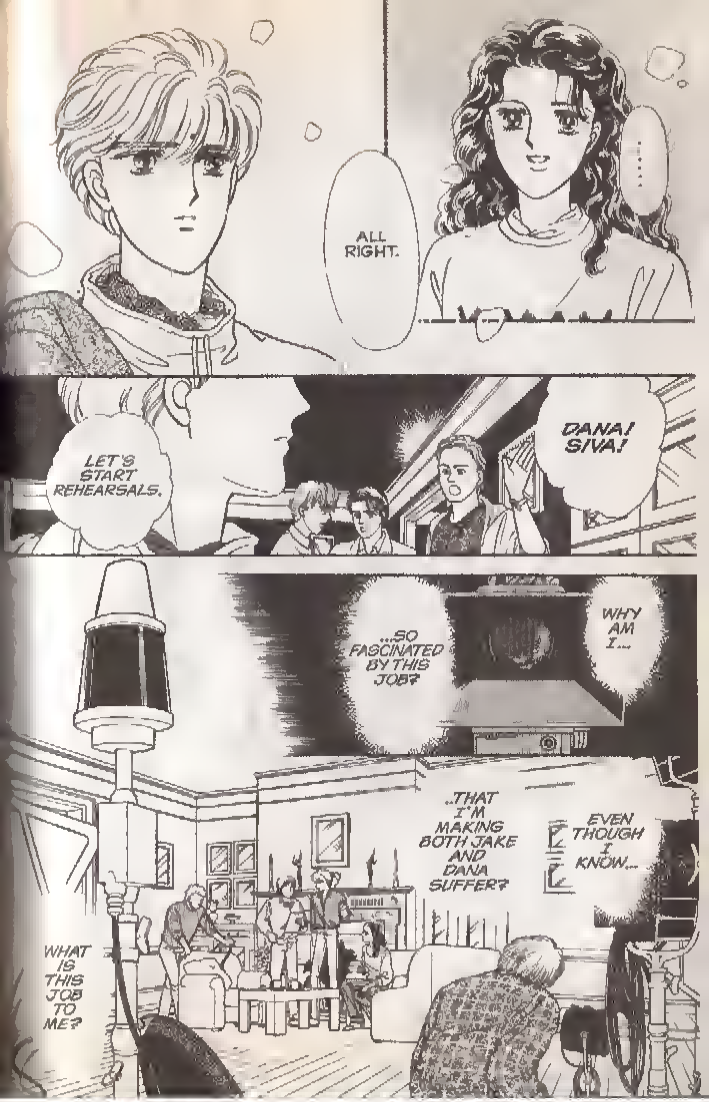

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HOW WILL IT BE EVALUATED LATER?
THE FEELING OF BECOMING "PERFORMANCE" MYSELF.
IT'S A PROJECT WHERE EVERYBODY COMES TOGETHER TO CREATE ONE THING.
IT'S LIKE A HOUSE I'VE LIVED IN FOR SIXTEEN YEARS.
ACTION!

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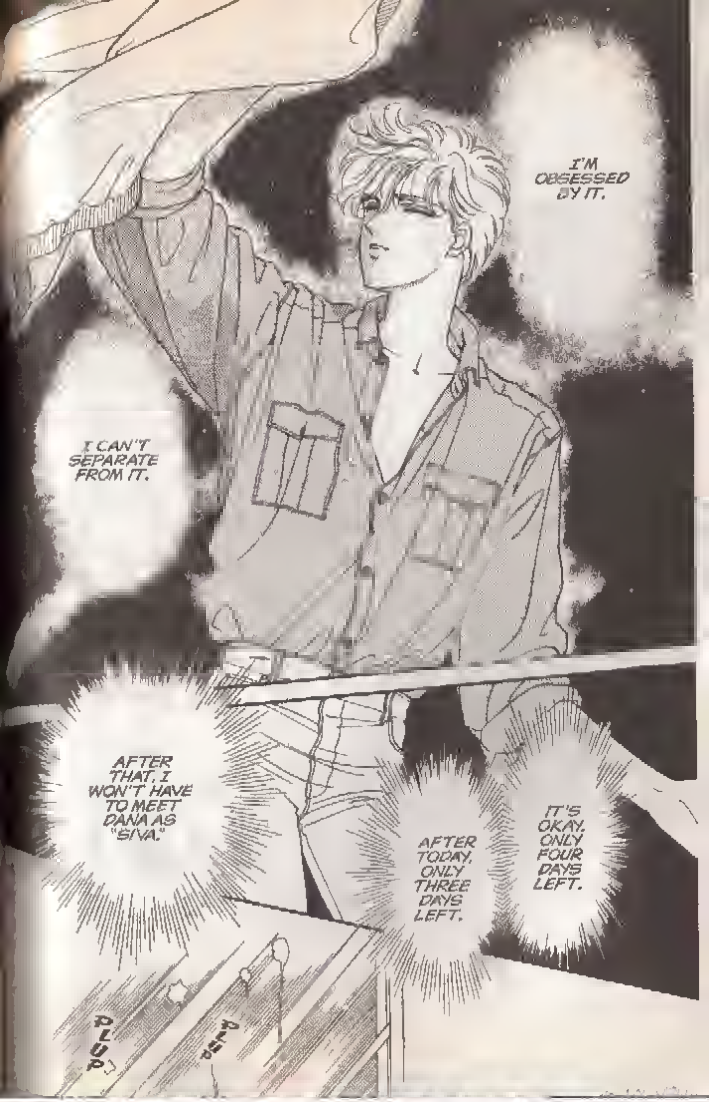
I'M OBSESSED BY IT.
I CAN'T SEPARATE FROM IT.
AFTER THAT, I WON'T HAVE TO MEET DANA AS "SIVA."
AFTER TODAY, ONLY THREE DAYS LEFT.
IT'S OKAY, ONLY FOUR DAYS LEFT.
PLOP
PLOP

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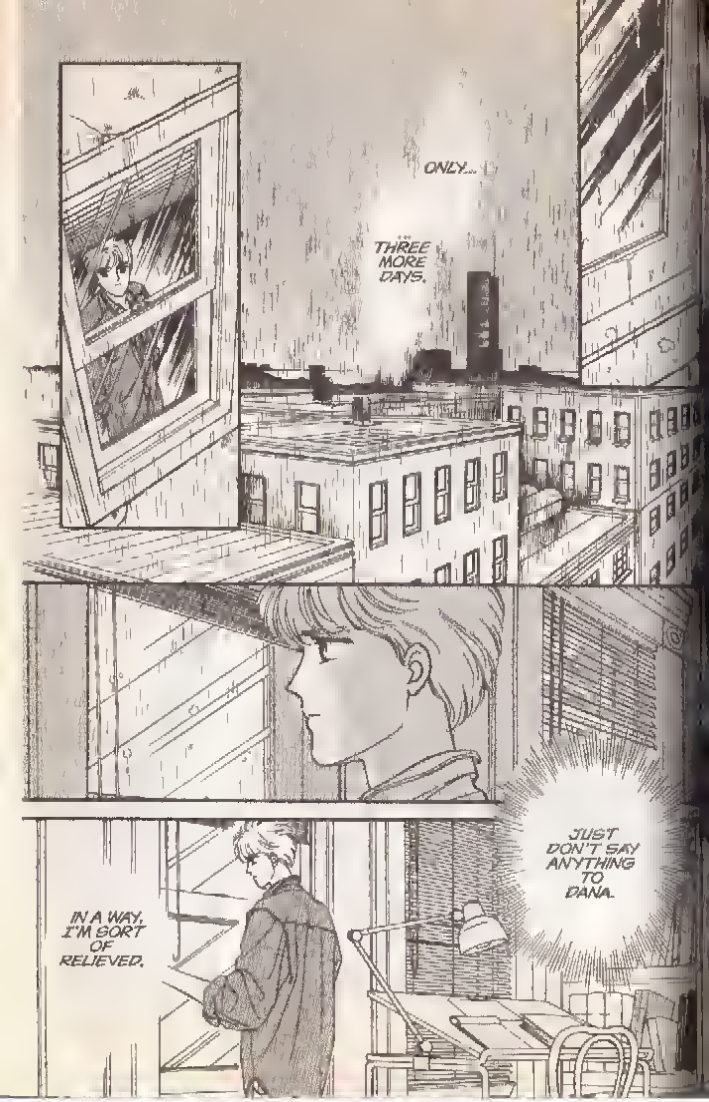

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WHAT IF DANA DIES?
WILL I NOT REGRET WHAT I DID?
BUT ARE THINGS REALLY OKAY THIS WAY?
WHAT IF...
LEAVING DANA TO SUFFER LIKE THIS...
I SO WANT TO TALK TO HER!
"JUST DON'T TELL HER!"
"PLEASE, JAKE!"

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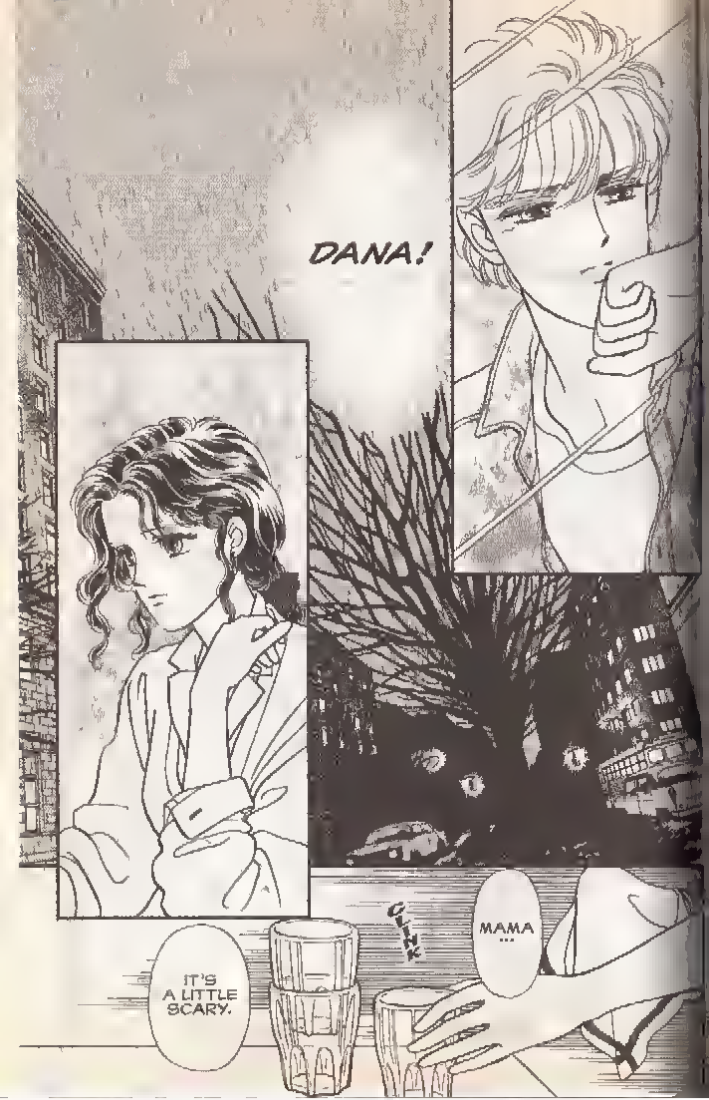

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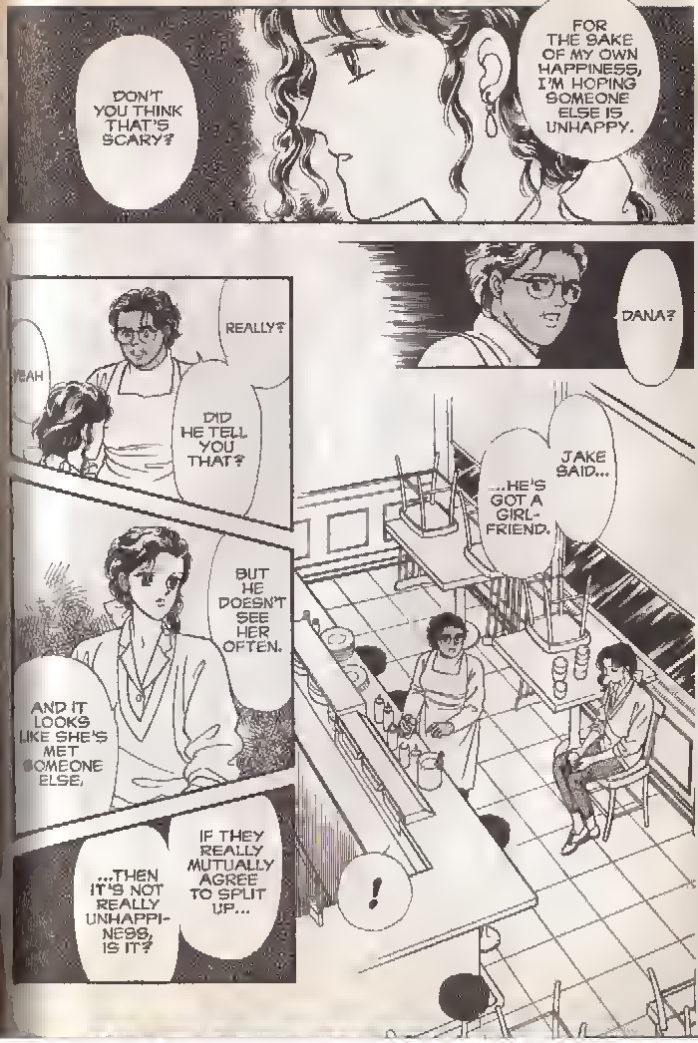
FOR THE SAKE OF MY OWN HAPPINESS, I'M HOPING SOMEONE ELSE IS UNHAPPY.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S SCARY?
DANA?
JAKE SAID...
...HE'S GOT A GIRL-FRIEND.
REALLY?
DID HE TELL YOU THAT?
YEAH
BUT HE DOESN'T SEE HER OFTEN.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S MET SOMEONE ELSE.
IF THEY REALLY MUTUALLY AGREE TO SPLIT UP...
...THEN IT'S NOT REALLY UNHAPPI-NESS, IS IT?
!

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DANA!
...I HOPE THEY BREAK UP!
EVEN THEN..
BUT WHAT IF THEY DON'T?
WHAT IF SHE LOVES JAKE?
HE LIKES YOU, DOESN'T HE?
IF I BELIEVE WHAT HE SAYS..
I LOVE HIM.
THE IMPORTANT THING IS NOT TO BE NEGLIGENT.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SCARED OF IT. IT'S NATURAL.
THEN DON'T WORRY.

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THE REST IS IN GOD'S HANDS.
SO HAVE NO REGRETS, NO MATTER HOW IT TURNS OUT.
CHOP CHOP
.....
I'M SORRY IF I WORRIED YOU.
THANKS, MAMA.
MAMA ...
A LOT HAPPENED WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, HUH?
HEH HEH.
YES INDEED.

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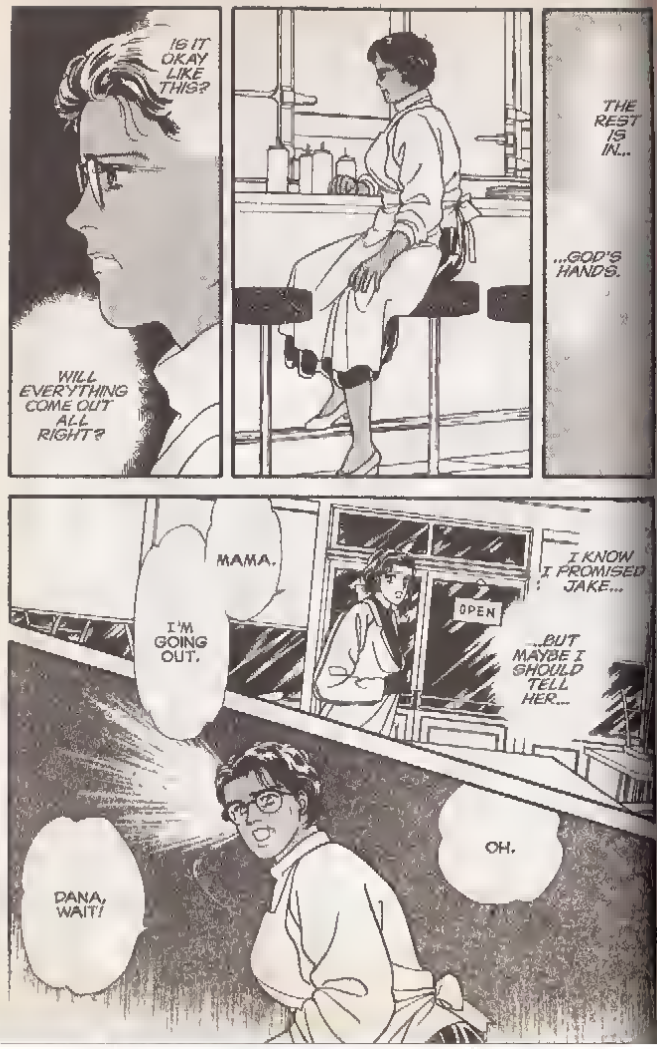

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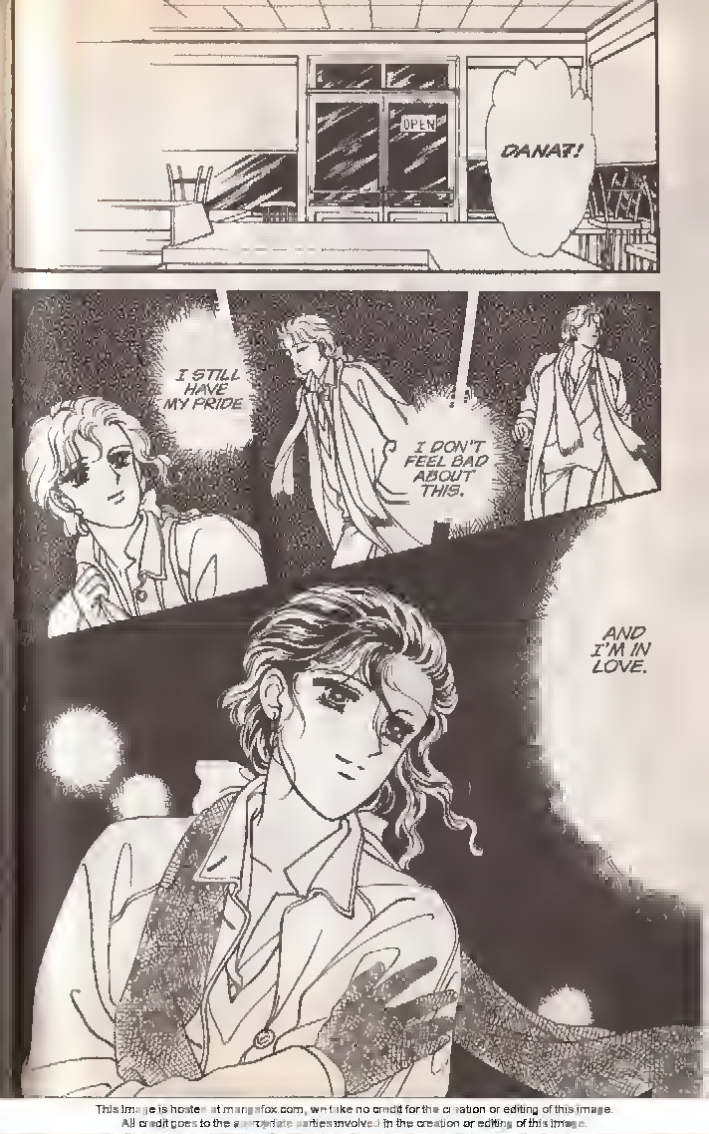

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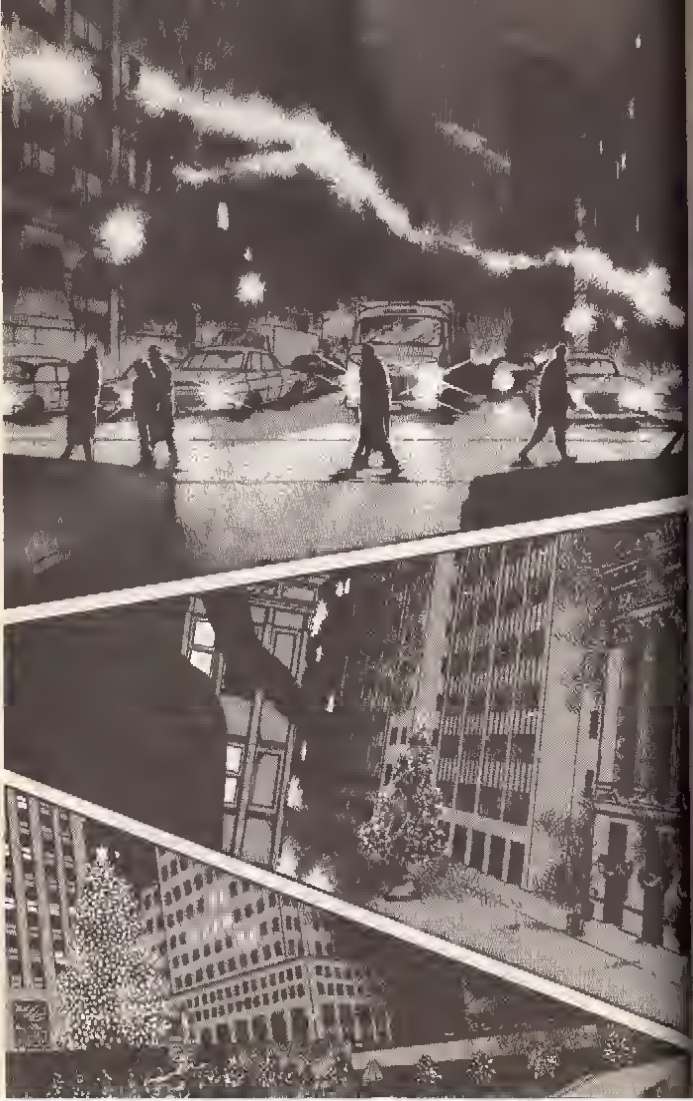

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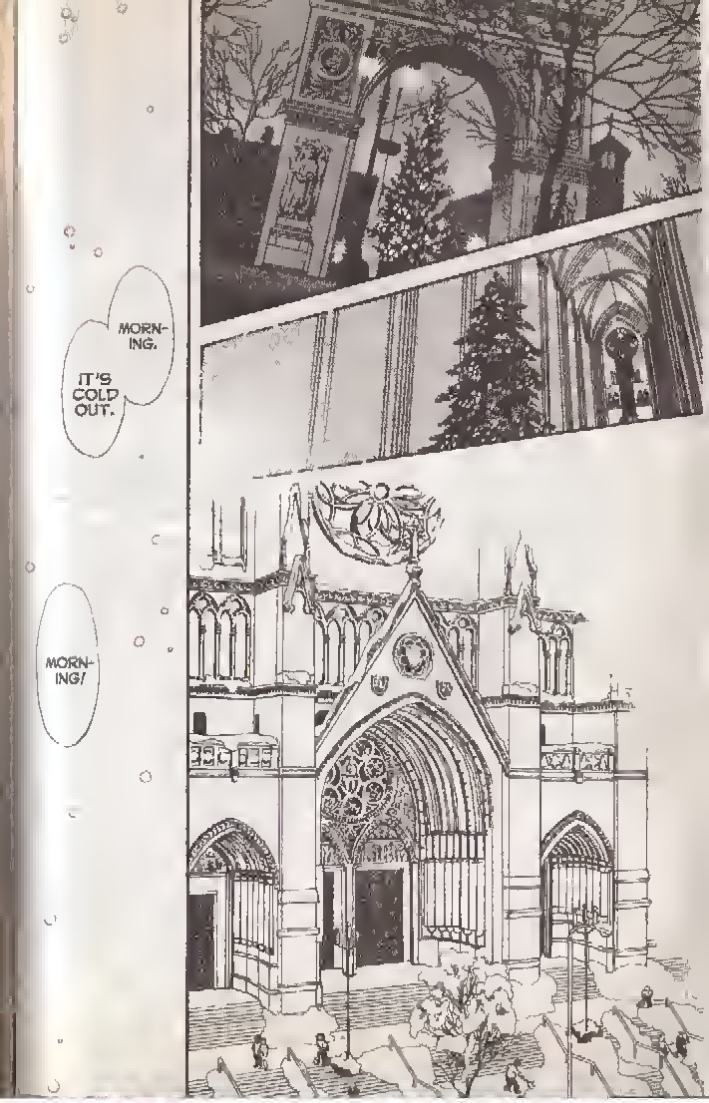

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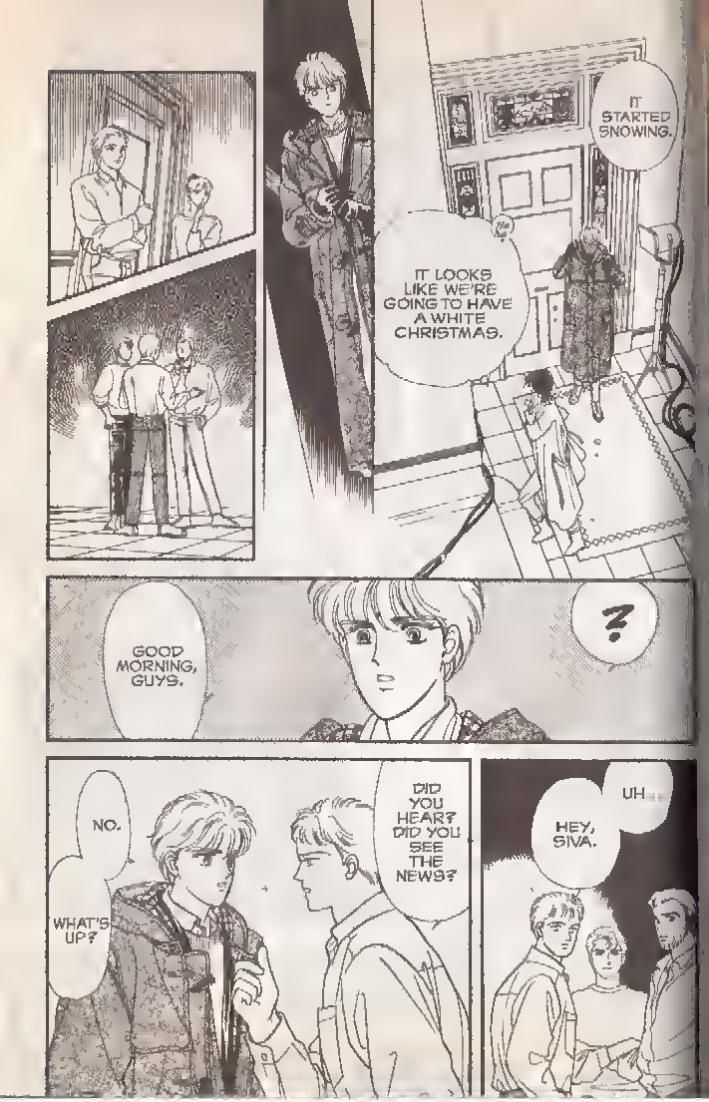

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ANYWAY, SHOOTING IS CANCELED FOR TODAY.
NO NEED TO COME BACK IN UNTIL YOU'VE HEARD FROM US.
THEY'RE DISCUSSING WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE LAST THREE DAYS OF FILMING.
WHETHER TO GET A DOUBLE, OR TO REWRITE THE SCRIPT.
YOU'RE JOKING.
SHE WAS SUCH A GOOD KID. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
I WISH I WERE.
DANA JACKSON IS DEAD.
OH JAKE...!
JAKE... WHAT'LL I TELL HIM?

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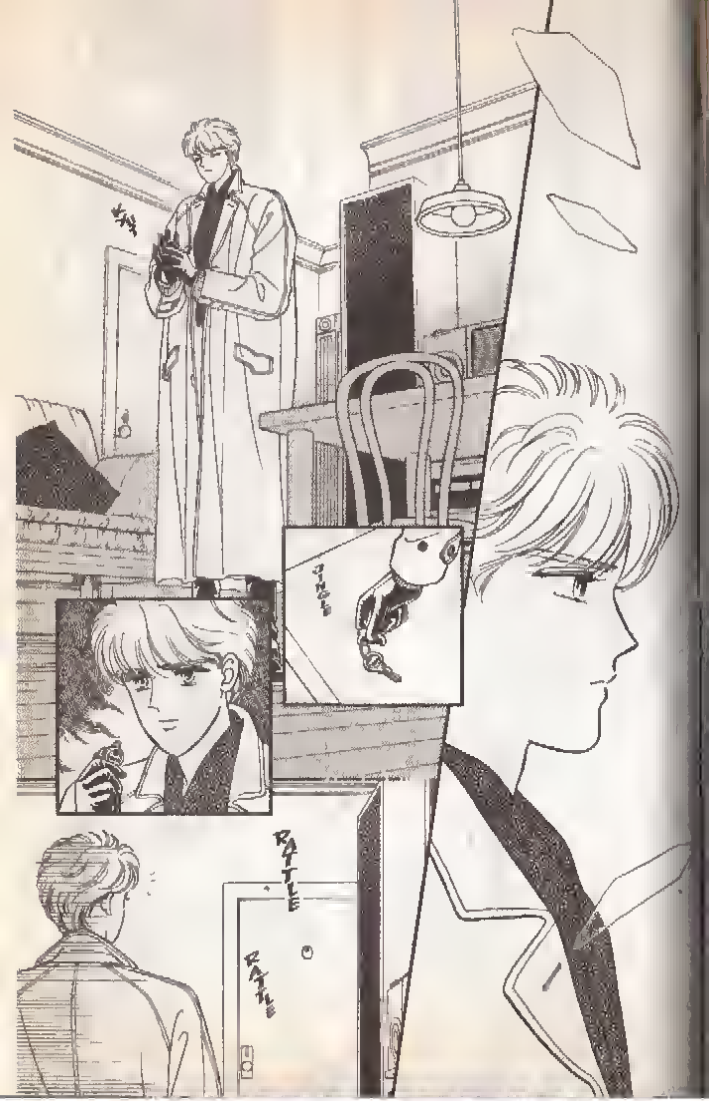

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HUH?
ROY?
CHAK
WHAT IS IT? WHY ARE YOU HOME SO EARLY?
WAS SHOOTING CANCELED?
CHAK
I WANT TO TELL DANA EVERY-THING.
BUT I HAVE TO GO FIND HER AND TELL HER.
JAKE.
I WAS JUST ON MY WAY OUT.
I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT ME TO.

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IT'S CHRISTMAS BREAK.
I'M HEADED TO MY MOM'S HOUSE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
ANISE
TELL ME!
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TODAY!
.....
YOU BOTH HAVE BEEN SO STRANGE RECENTLY, I WAS WORRIED.
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
PLEASE ...!
YOUR FACE LOOKS AWFUL, TOO!

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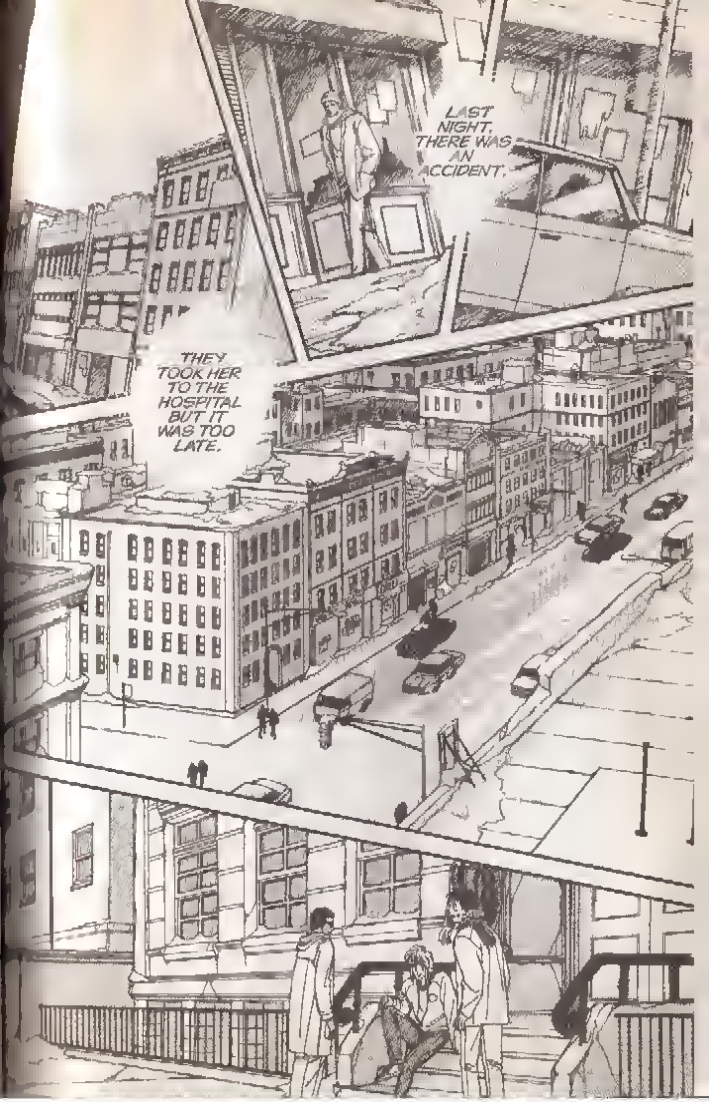

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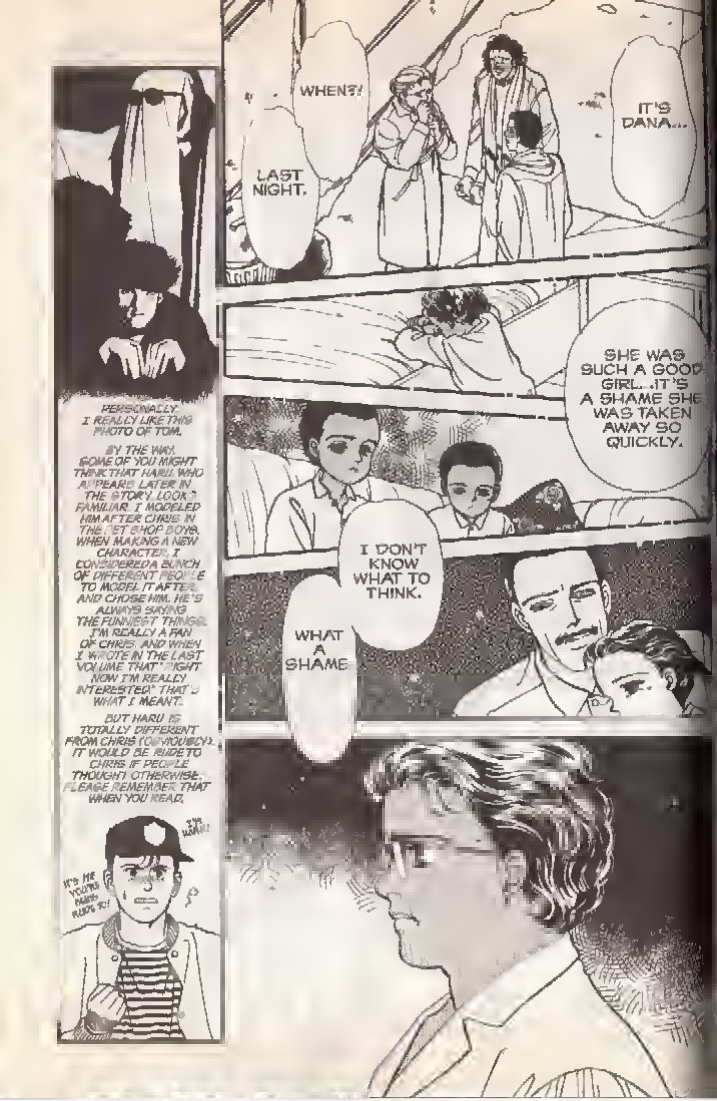
PERSONALLY, I REALLY LIKE THIS PHOTO OF TOM.
BY THE WAY, SOME OF YOU MIGHT THINK THAT HARU, WHO APPEARS LATER IN THE STORY, LOOK'S FAMILIAR. I MODELED HIM AFTER CHRIS IN THE 1ST CHOP BOYS. WHEN MAKING A NEW CHARACTER, I CONSIDERED A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE TO MODEL IT AFTER, AND CHOSE HIM. HE'S ALWAYS SAYING THE FUNNIEST THINGS. I'M REALLY A FAN OF CHRIS. AND WHEN I WROTE IN THE LAST VOLUME THAT "RIGHT NOW I'M REALLY INTERESTED" THAT WAS WHAT I MEANT.
BUT HARU IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM CHRIS (OBVIOUSLY). IT WOULD BE RUDE TO CHRIS IF PEOPLE THOUGHT OTHERWISE. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOU READ.
IT'S ME YOUNG MAN-KUN!
SON MAN!
WHEN?
LAST NIGHT.
IT'S DANA...
SHE WAS SUCH A GOOD GIRL...IT'S A SHAME SHE WAS TAKEN AWAY SO QUICKLY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK.
WHAT A SHAME

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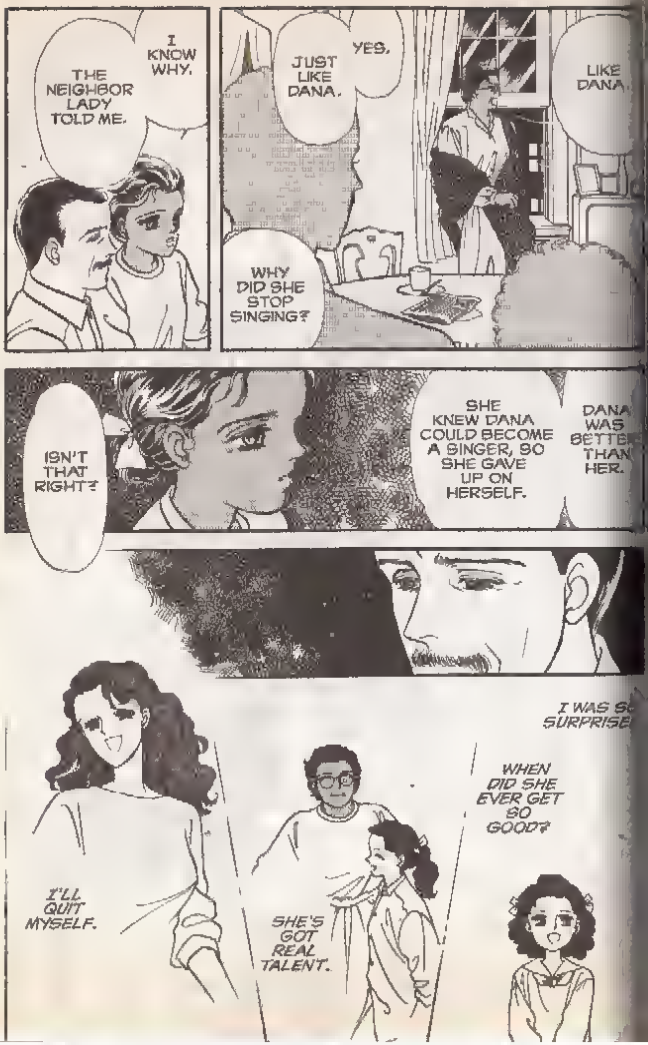
I KNOW WHY.
THE NEIGHBOR LADY TOLD ME.
YES.
JUST LIKE DANA.
WHY DID SHE STOP SINGING?
LIKE DANA
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
SHE KNEW DANA COULD BECOME A SINGER, SO SHE GAVE UP ON HERSELF.
DANA WAS BETTE THAN HER.
I WAS SU SURPRISE
WHEN DID SHE EVER GET SO GOOD?
I'LL QUIT MYSELF.
SHE'S GOT REAL TALENT.

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RRRING
BRRRR-RR
TOO LATE?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
CLICK
YES, IT'S ME.
THEY FOUND SOMEBODY WHO LOOKS LIKE HER.
THEY MAY HAVE TO REWRITE SOME OF THE SCRIPT, TOO.
THEY DECIDED TO FILM THE REST WITH A STAND IN.
SORRY TO CALL YOU SO LATE.
HELLO?
OH, ONE MORE THING.
DANA'S FUNERAL IS TEN A.M. TOMORROW AT SAINT CHRISTOPHER'S.
OKAY.
ANYWAY, ALL WE CAN DO IS GIVE IT A TRY.
WE START SHOOTING AGAIN TOMORROW.

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I WANT TO BE WITH YOU!
JAKE IS SURE TO BE AT THE CHURCH TOMORROW.
THEY'LL WORRY ABOUT YOU.
I'LL STAY HERE! I'LL TELL MY PARENTS I'M AT RUTH'S.
NO.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN HE'LL BE COMING BACK.
AT LEAST I CAN DO THAT.
IF IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING NIGHTMARES, I CAN WAKE YOU UP.

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CLASP
NOTHING UNUSUAL. JUST A NORMAL DAY LIKE ANY OTHER.
BUT TO THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE, IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN ANOTHER DAY.
TO THE MOURNERS, IT'S SO IMPORTANT.
IT'S STRANGE.
LOOKING AT IT FROM BACK HERE

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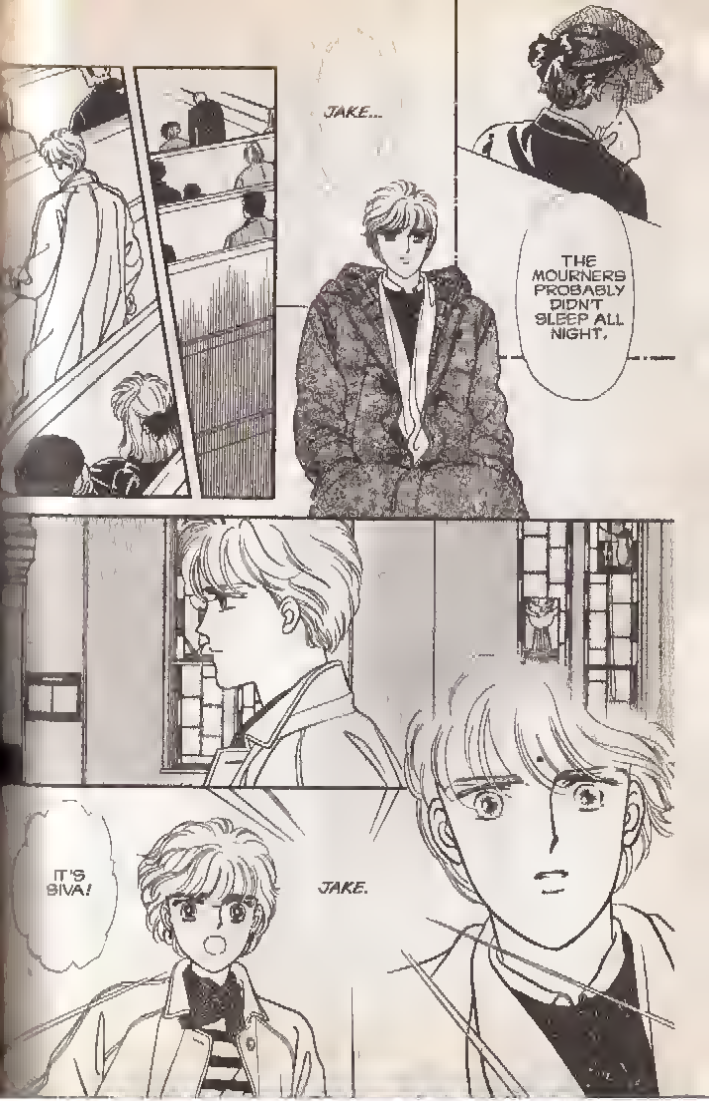

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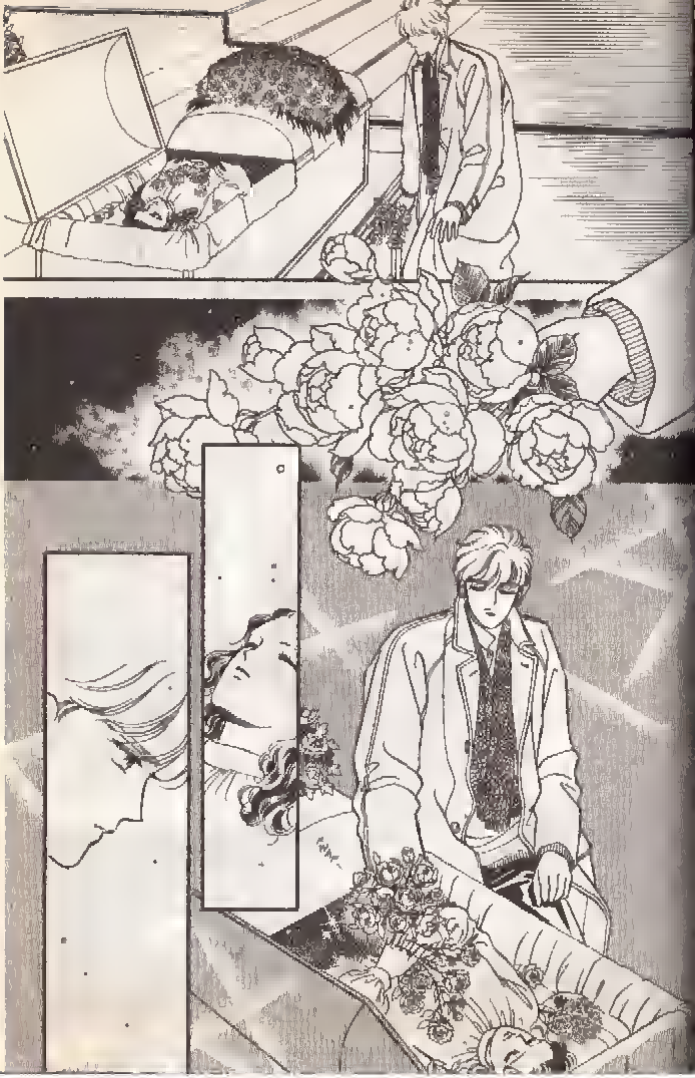

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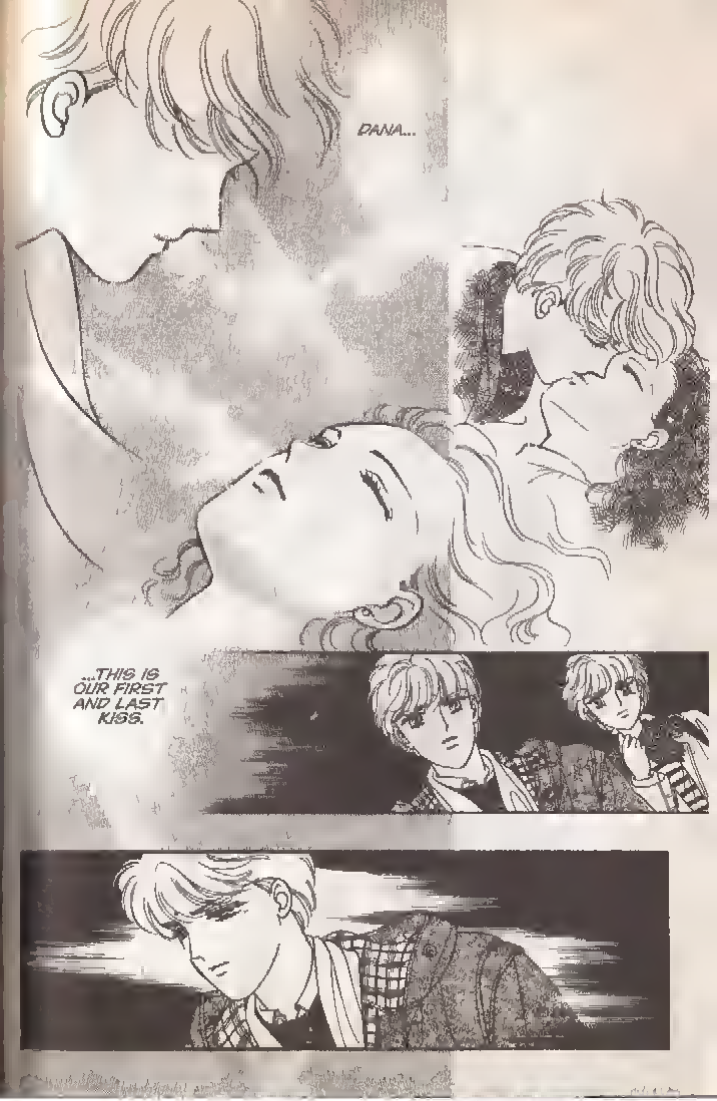

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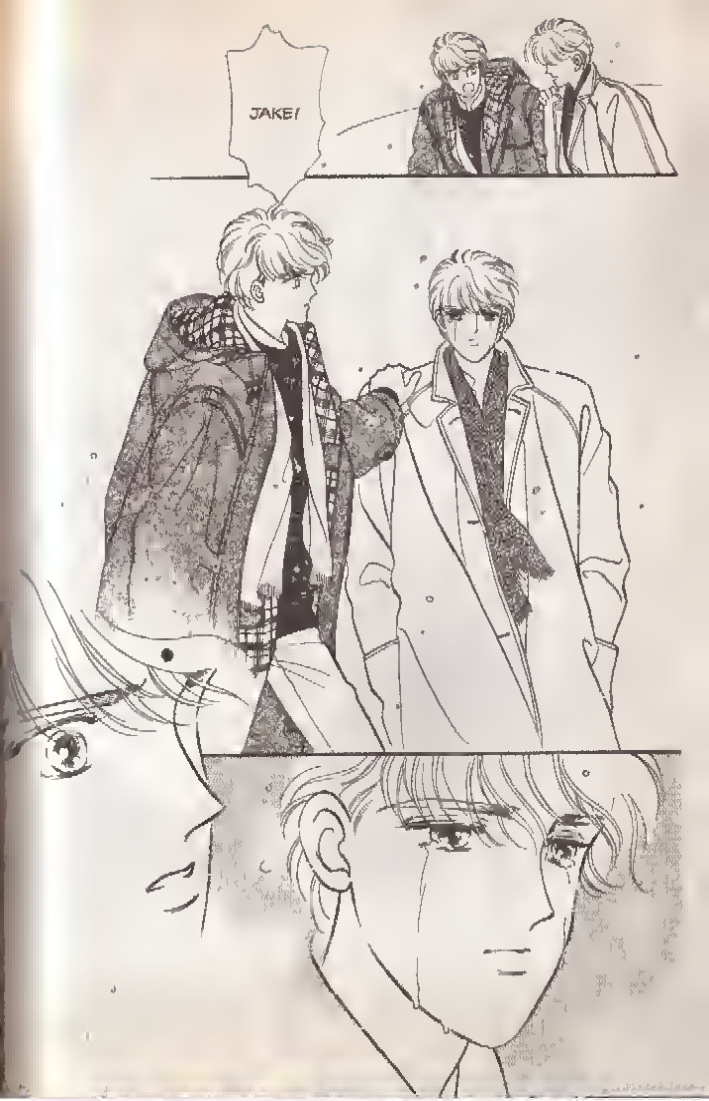

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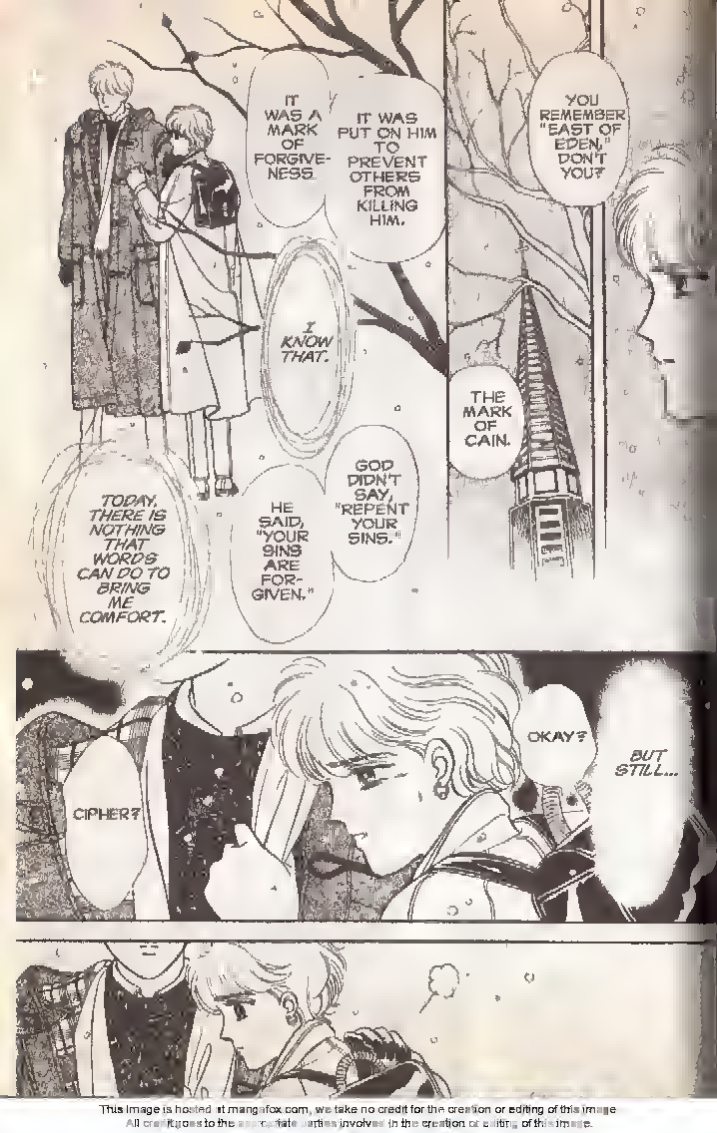
IT WAS A MARK OF FORGIVE-NESS.
IT WAS PUT ON HIM TO PREVENT OTHERS FROM KILLING HIM.
YOU REMEMBER "EAST OF EDEN," DON'T YOU?
I KNOW THAT.
THE MARK OF CAIN.
TODAY, THERE IS NOTHING THAT WORDS CAN DO TO BRING ME COMFORT.
HE SAID, "YOUR SINS ARE FOR-GIVEN."
GOD DIDN'T SAY, "REPENT YOUR SINS."
CIPHER?
OKAY?
BUT STILL...

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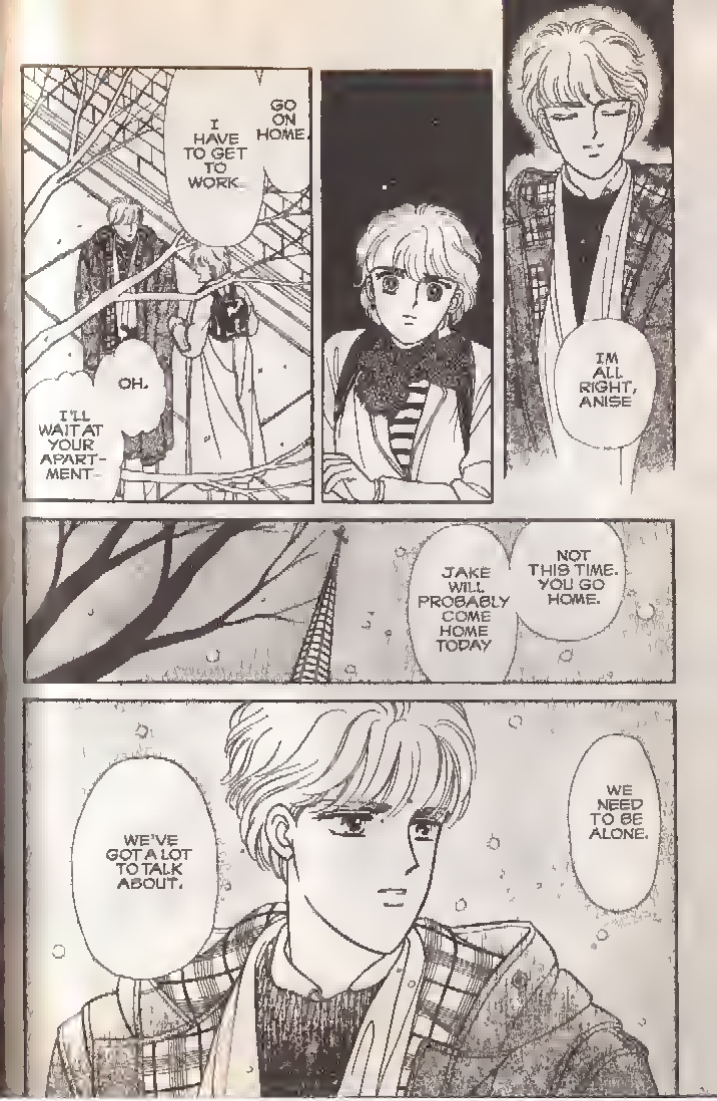
I HAVE TO GET TO WORK.
GO ON HOME.
OH.
I'LL WAIT AT YOUR APART-MENT.
I'M ALL RIGHT, ANISE
NOT THIS TIME. YOU GO HOME.
JAKE WILL PROBABLY COME HOME TODAY
WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.
WE NEED TO BE ALONE.

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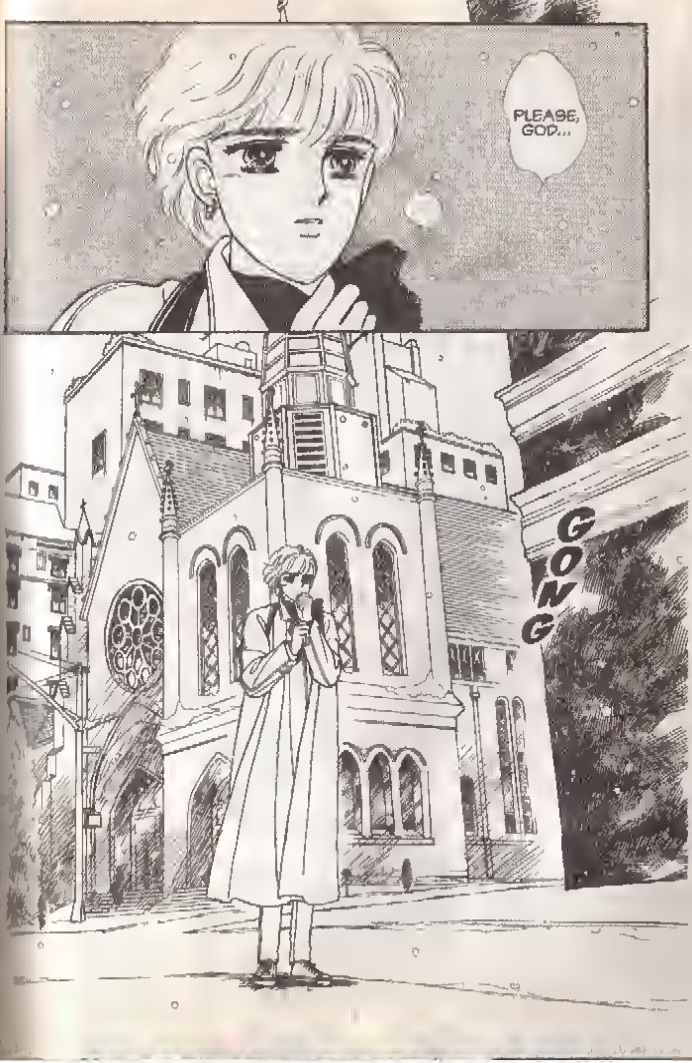

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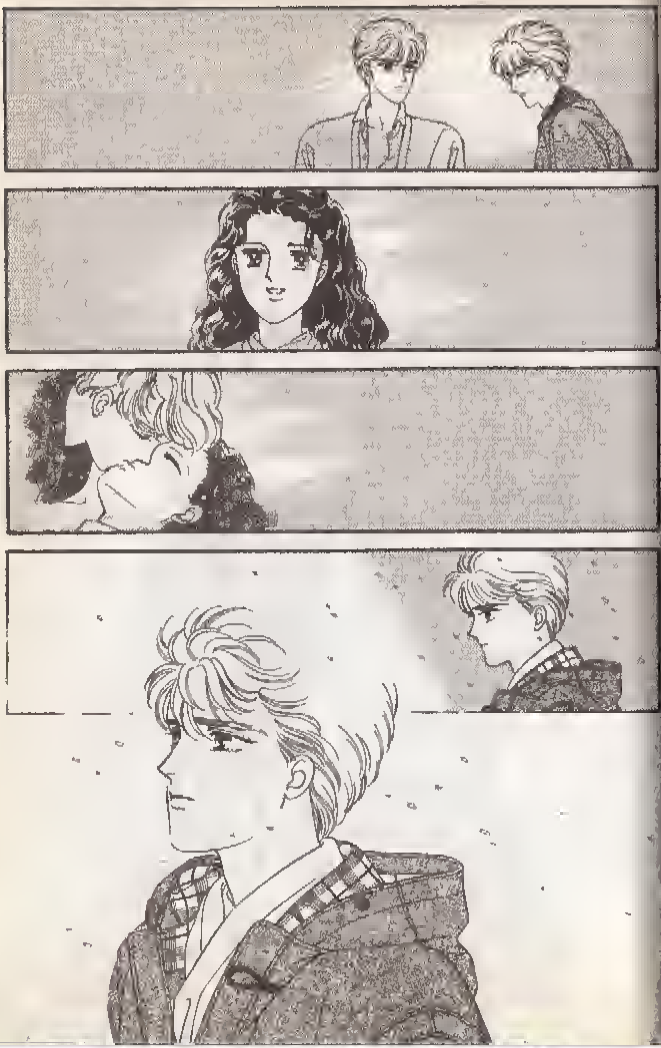

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NOW ALL THE PROMISES OF HAPPINESS THAT I GAVE TO JAKE AND DANA RETURN TO ATTACK MY HEART.

"JUST WAIT UNTIL THEN TO ANSWER HER.

"IT WILL ALL BE OVER IN THREE DAYS.'

JAKE'S LOVE MIGHT HAVE WORKED OUT.

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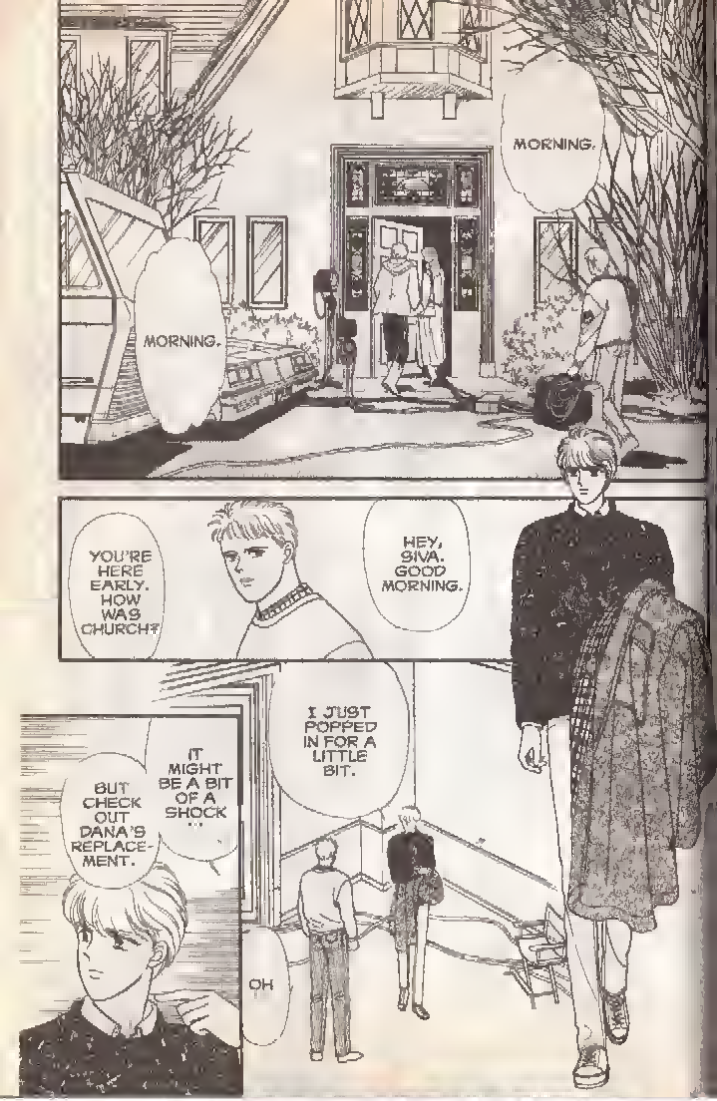
MORNING.
MORNING.
YOU'RE HERE EARLY. HOW WAS CHURCH?
HEY, SIVA. GOOD MORNING.
I JUST POPPED IN FOR A LITTLE BIT.
IT MIGHT BE A BIT OF A SHOCK...
BUT CHECK OUT DANA'S REPLACEMENT.
OH

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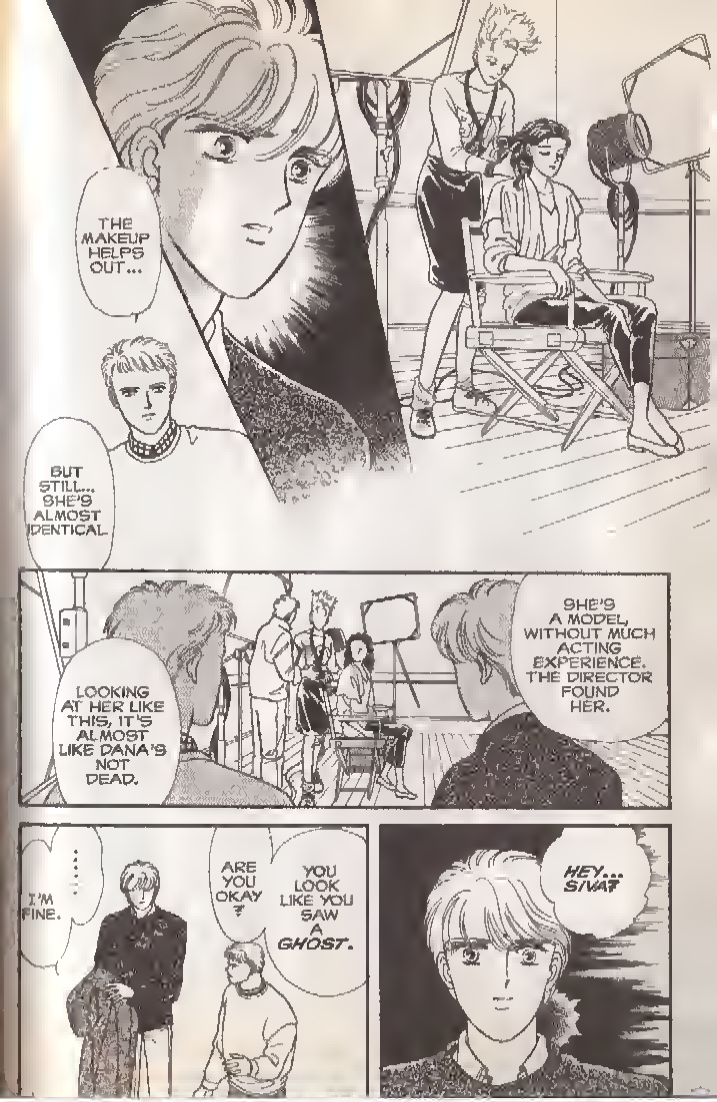
THE MAKEUP HELPS OUT...
BUT STILL... SHE'S ALMOST IDENTICAL
LOOKING AT HER LIKE THIS, IT'S ALMOST LIKE DANA'S NOT DEAD.
SHE'S A MODEL WITHOUT MUCH ACTING EXPERIENCE. THE DIRECTOR FOUND HER.
I'M FINE.
.....
ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU SAW A GHOST.
HEY... SIVA?

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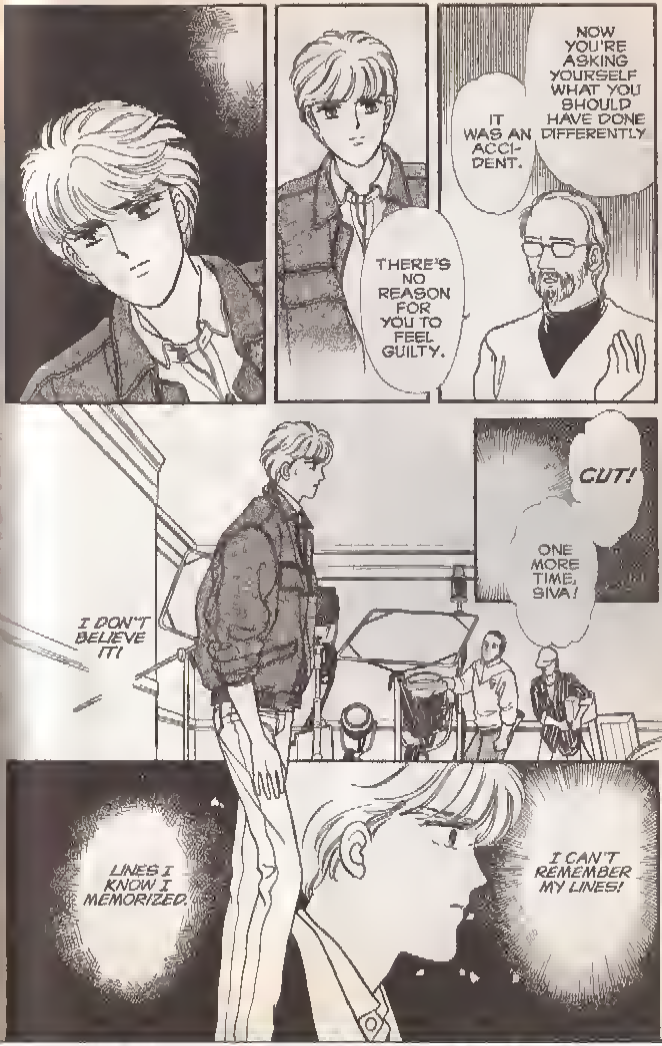
NOW YOU'RE ASKING YOURSELF WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY.
IT WAS AN ACCI-DENT.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO FEEL GUILTY.
CUT!
ONE MORE TIME, SIVA!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
LINES I KNOW I MEMORIZED.
I CAN'T REMEMBER MY LINES!

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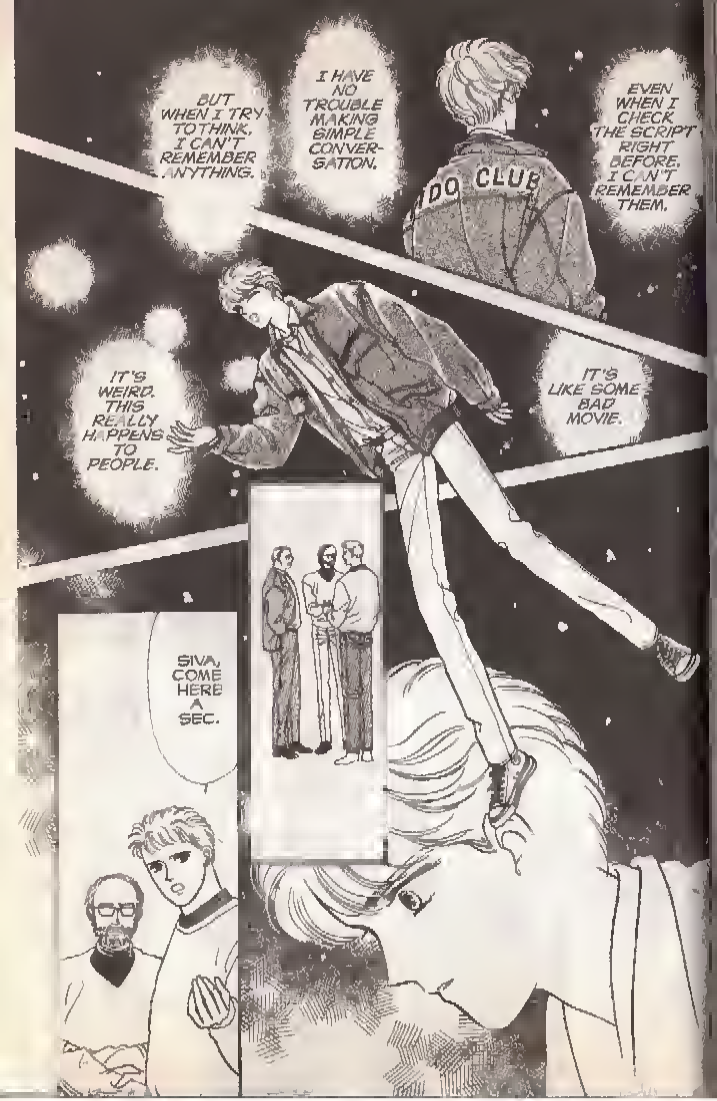
BUT WHEN I TRY TO THINK, I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
I HAVE NO TROUBLE MAKING SIMPLE CONVER-SATION.
DO CLUB
EVEN WHEN I CHECK THE SCRIPT RIGHT BEFORE, I CAN'T REMEMBER THEM.
IT'S WEIRD. THIS REALLY HAPPENS TO PEOPLE.
IT'S LIKE SOME BAD MOVIE.
SIVA, COME HERE A SEC.

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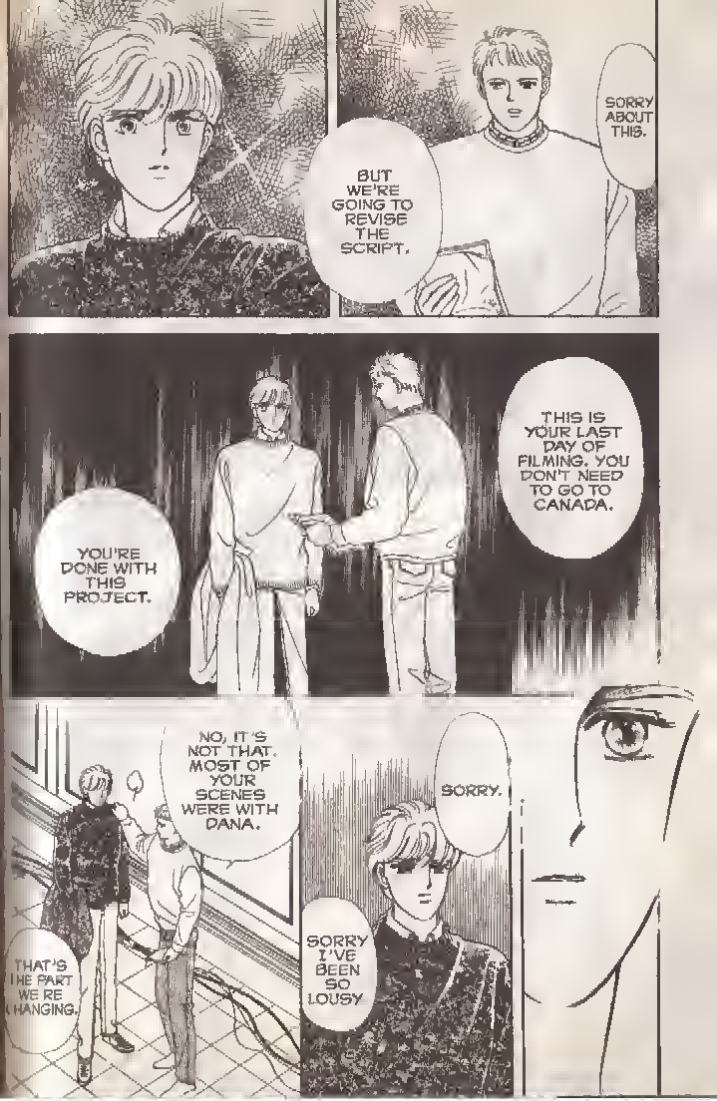
BUT WE'RE GOING TO REVISE THE SCRIPT.
SORRY ABOUT THIS.
YOU'RE DONE WITH THIS PROJECT.
THIS IS YOUR LAST DAY OF FILMING. YOU DON'T NEED TO GO TO CANADA.
NO, IT'S NOT THAT. MOST OF YOUR SCENES WERE WITH DANA.
THAT'S THE PART WE'RE CHANGING.
SORRY.
SORRY I'VE BEEN SO LOUSY

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RECENTLY, CIPHER HAS DROPPED IN POPULARITY. IT SEEMS LIKE PEOPLE OVER 20 YEARS-OLD ARE THE ONES WHO UNDERSTAND CIPHER'S FEELINGS (OF HAVING HURT PEOPLE MORE THAN BEING HURT). AND OUR READERS WHO ARE LIKE THAT ARE GETTING FEWER AND FEWER. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I STILL HAVEN'T TOLD THE STORY OF CIPHER FROM CIPHER'S POINT OF VIEW YET.
AFTER I WROTE ABOUT SIVA'S PAST I GOT A LOT OF LETTERS FROM PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTOOD HOW HE FEELS. SOME SAID "ACTUALLY I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING FOR A LONG TIME." I'M SORRY THAT I CAN'T ANSWER ALL THE LETTERS PERSONALLY, BUT EVEN IF I TRIED I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D SAY. ALL THE LETTERS ARE SO SERIOUS, I THINK THE ONLY ANSWER I CAN GIVE IS TO TRY MY BEST TO FINISH THE CIPHER SERIES.
I'VE SAID IT BEFORE, BUT THIS ISN'T AN UNHAPPY STORY, TANAKA-SAN. SORRY I CAN'T TELL YOU DIRECTLY.
I GAVE UP A MODELING JOB TO DO THIS!
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU TOLD ME BEFORE!
WE'RE DONE?!
WH...
WHERE'S THE DIRECTOR?!
WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME HIMSELF?!
NO ONE TOLD ME THAT!
HE SAID WE MIGHT HAVE TO REVISE THINGS.

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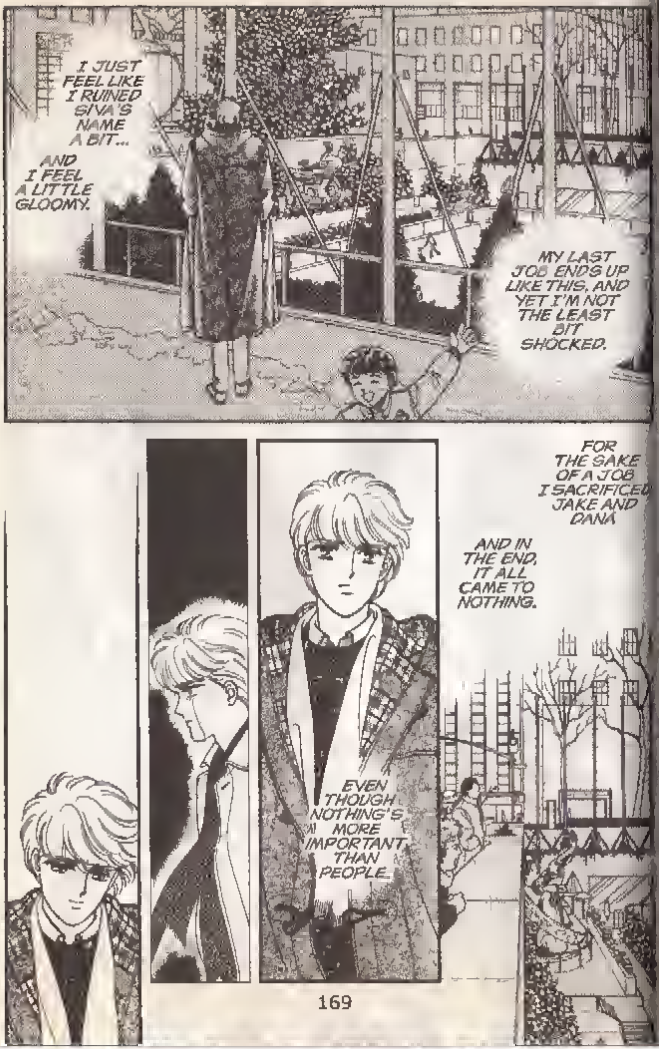
I JUST FEEL LIKE I RUINED SIVA'S NAME A BIT...
AND I FEEL A LITTLE GLOOMY.
MY LAST JOB ENDS UP LIKE THIS. AND YET I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT SHOCKED.
FOR THE SAKE OF A JOB I SACRIFICED JAKE AND DANA
AND IN THE END, IT ALL CAME TO NOTHING.
EVEN THOUGH NOTHING'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN PEOPLE.

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BUT AN APOLOGY ISN'T ENOUGH.
I'VE GOT TO TALK TO JAKE!
WHAT WILL I SAY TO HIM?
I DON'T KNOW...
OR WILL HE FORGIVE ME?
WILL HE TELL ME TO GET OUT, LIKE HE DID BEFORE?

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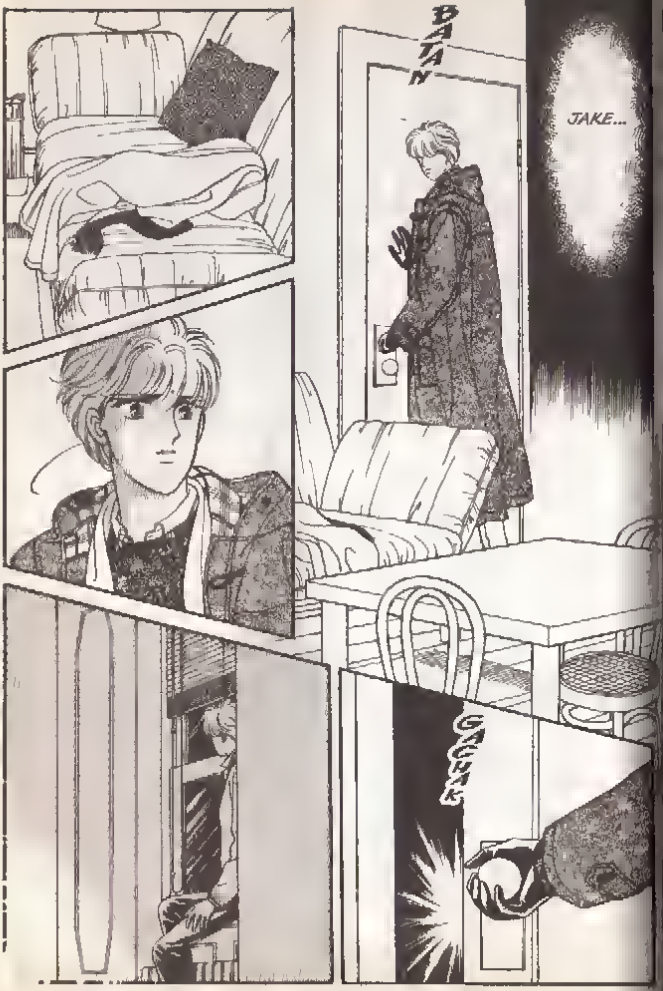

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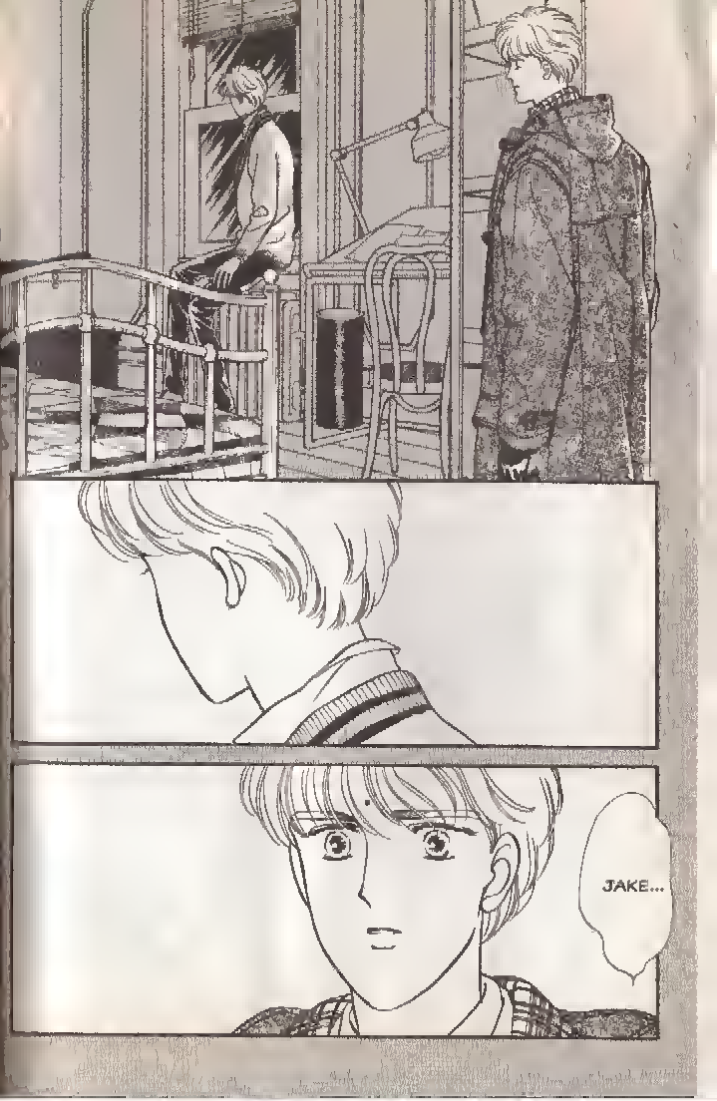

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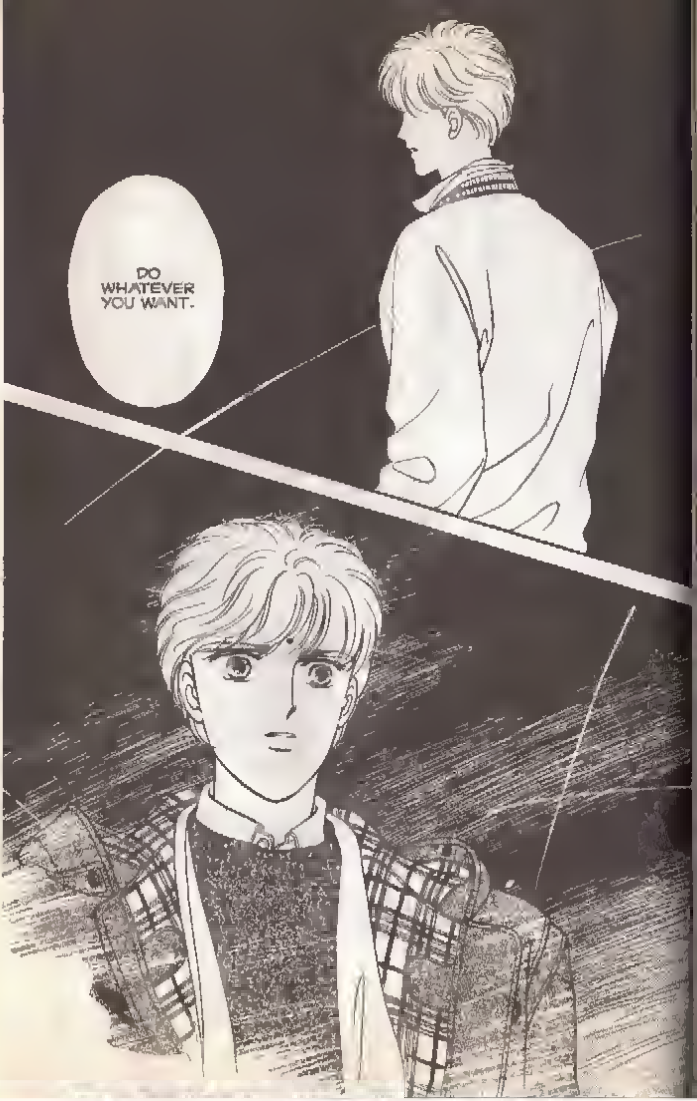

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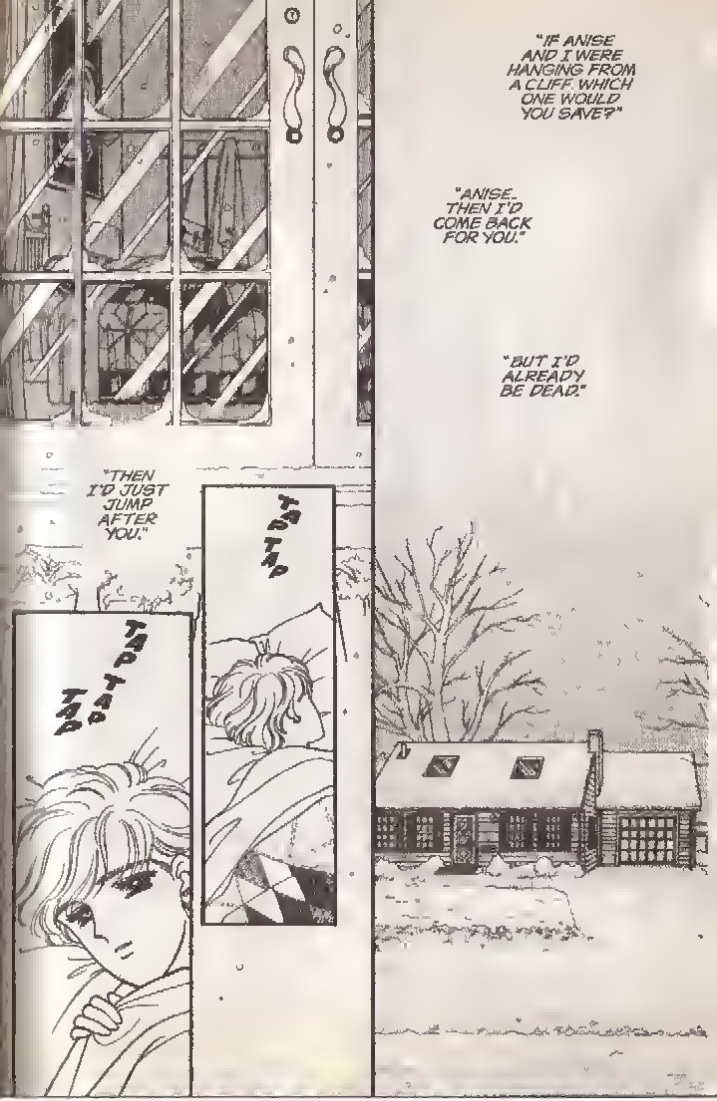
"IF ANISE AND I WERE HANGING FROM A CLIFF. WHICH ONE WOULD YOU SAVE?"
"ANISE. THEN I'D COME BACK FOR YOU."
"BUT I'D ALREADY BE DEAD."
"THEN I'D JUST JUMP AFTER YOU."
TAP TAP
TAP TAP TAP

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I KNOW YOU HAVE DELICATE SKIN, SO I GOT THE SOFTEST ONE I COULD FIND.
I'M JUST HAPPY TO SEE THAT YOU LIKE IT.
OH...
TH-THANK YOU.
BUT...
THERE THERE
WHY?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE UNUSUALLY HAPPY.

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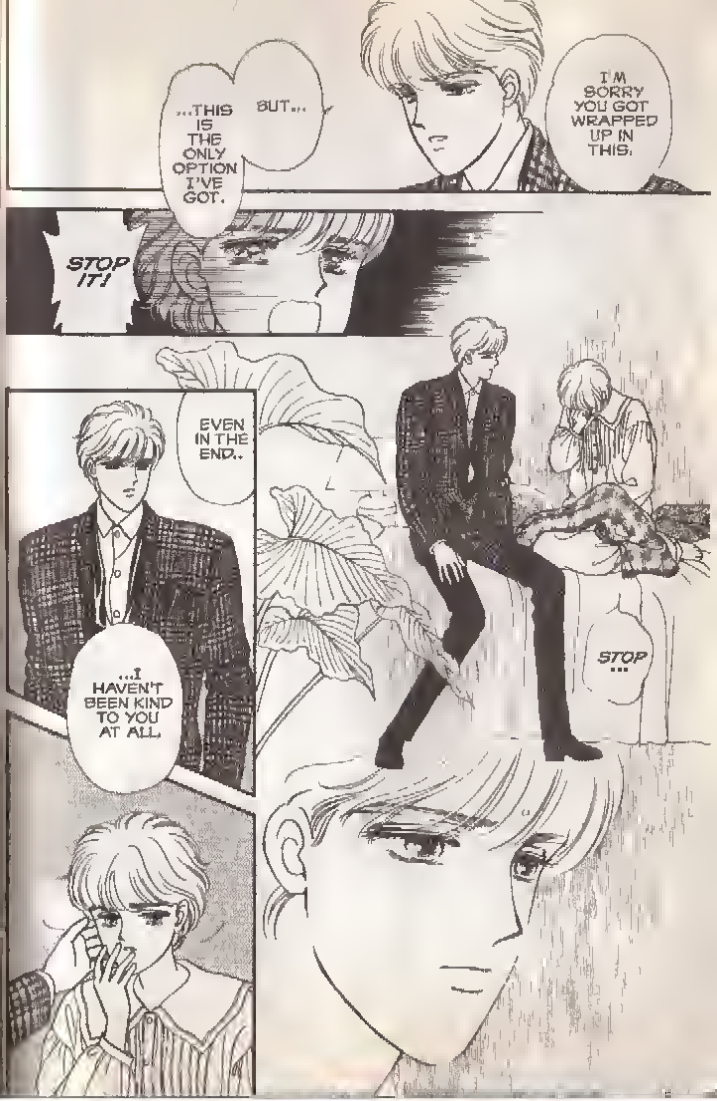
I'M SORRY YOU GOT WRAPPED UP IN THIS.
BUT...
...THIS IS THE ONLY OPTION I'VE GOT.
STOP IT!
EVEN IN THE END..
...I HAVEN'T BEEN KIND TO YOU AT ALL.
STOP ...

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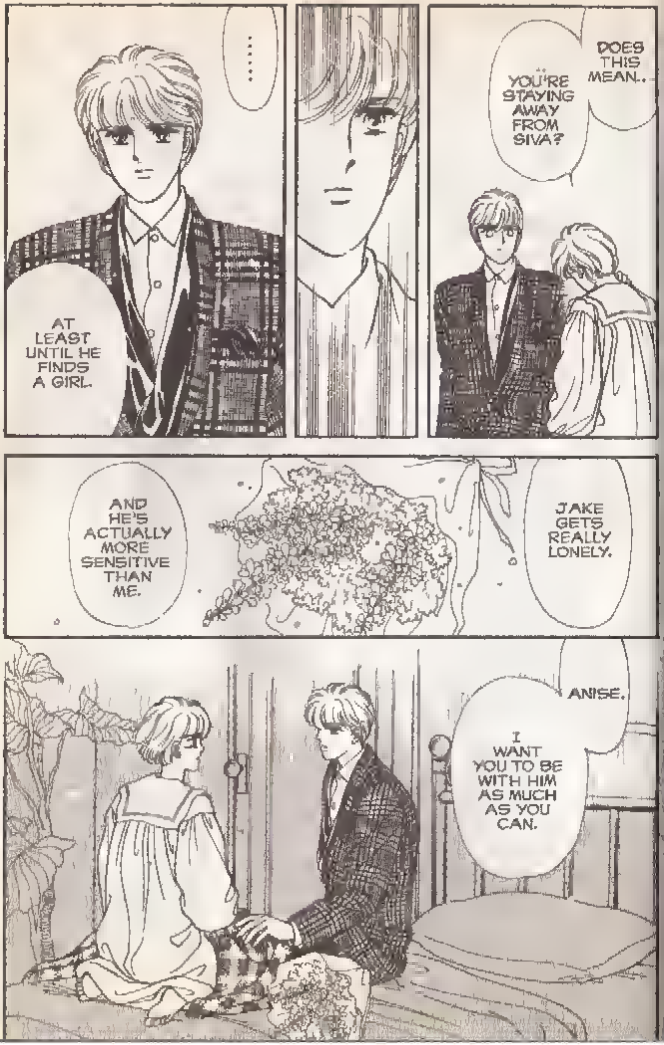
.....
AT LEAST UNTIL HE FINDS A GIRL.
DOES THIS MEAN.. YOU'RE STAYING AWAY FROM SIVA?
AND HE'S ACTUALLY MORE SENSITIVE THAN ME.
JAKE GETS REALLY LONELY.
ANISE.
I WANT YOU TO BE WITH HIM AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

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IF I LEAVE HIM ALONE LIKE THIS, HE'LL DIE.
I KNOW I HAVE NO RIGHT TO ASK.
BUT THERE'S NO ONE ELSE I CAN TURN TO.
DON'T DO ANYTHING TO TAKE CARE OF ELLIE. LET JAKE DO EVERYTHING HIMSELF.
AND DON'T EAT UNTIL JAKE MAKES A PLACE FOR YOU.
DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO, BUT MAKE HIM THINK "I NEED YOU TO BE HERE!"
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
I LOVE JAKE.
IF JAKE WEREN'T THERE, I'D BE FINISHED.
YOU MEAN ...
ALL THIS TIME, YOU'VE BEEN LETTING SIVA TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR *HIS* SAKE?

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WELL, THEN ...
WHAT WILL YOU DO FROM NOW?
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
YOU LIAR!
CIPHER!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BE SO CALM ABOUT ALL THIS!
IN REALITY, YOU'RE THE ONE THAT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DYING!

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STAY HERE AND TAKE CARE OF SIVA YOUR-SELF!
YOU CAN'T JUST RUN AWAY!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
I WOULD IF I COULD.
BUT I CAN'T DO IT, ANISE.
AS SOON AS YOU LEAVE, I'M GOING TO FORGET ABOUT YOU!
OKAY.
.....
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?!
I'LL GO OUT AND GET ANOTHER BOYFRIEND!

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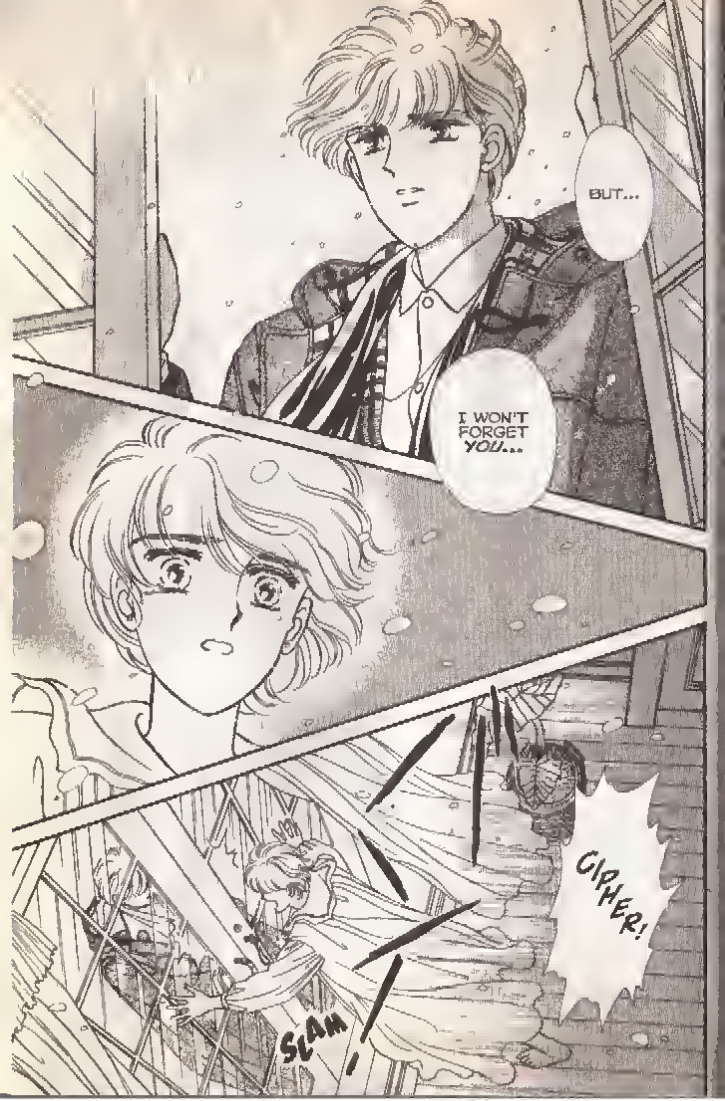

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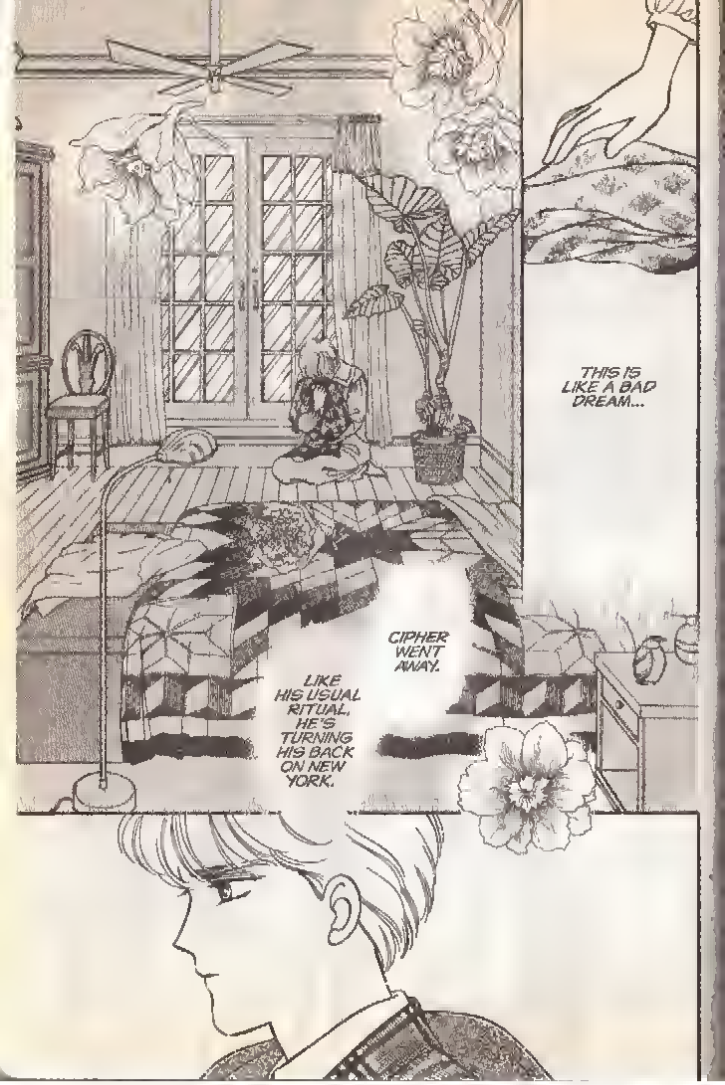

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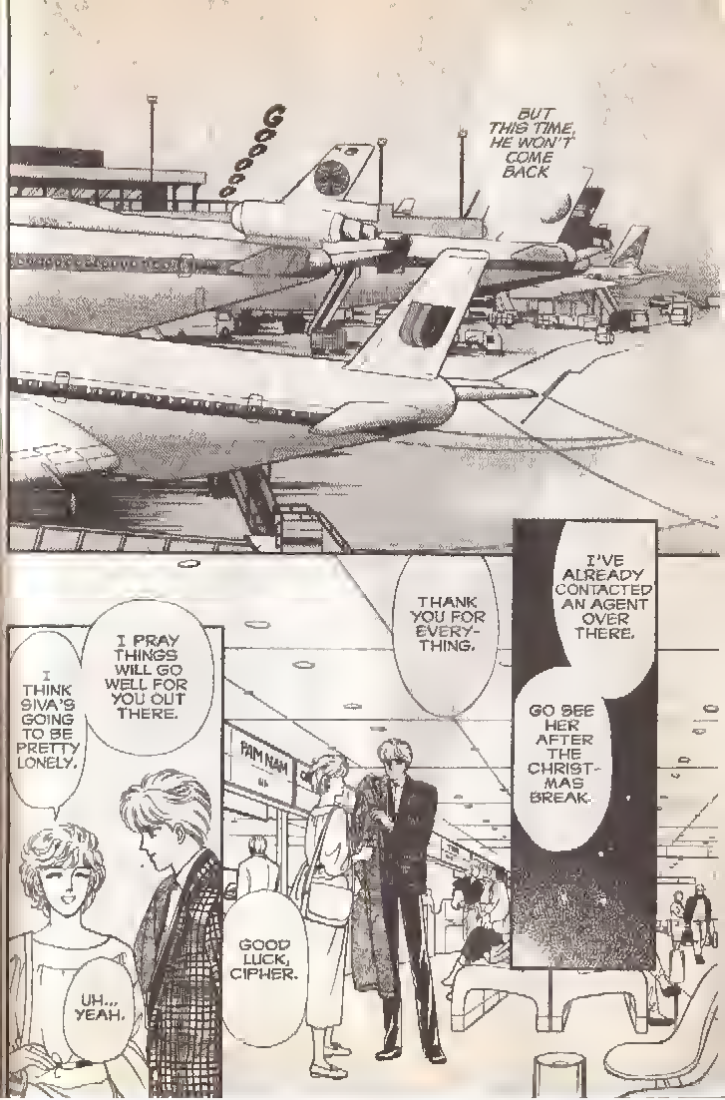
BUT THIS TIME, HE WON'T COME BACK
I'VE ALREADY CONTACTED AN AGENT OVER THERE.
GO SEE HER AFTER THE CHRIST-MAS BREAK.
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
I PRAY THINGS WILL GO WELL FOR YOU OUT THERE.
I THINK SIVA'S GOING TO BE PRETTY LONELY.
PAM NAM
GOOD LUCK, CIPHER.
UH... YEAH.

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COULD I HAVE YOU LOOK IN ON JAKE FROM TIME TO TIME?
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM...
CONTACT ME THROUGH THE NEW AGENT.
I'VE DECIDED TO WORK MOSTLY OUT THERE.
THINK HE'LL QUIT WORKING FROM NOW ON.
ISN'T HE GOING TO SEE YOU OFF?
WHERE IS HE?
.....
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.
OF COURSE! I'D BE GLAD TO.

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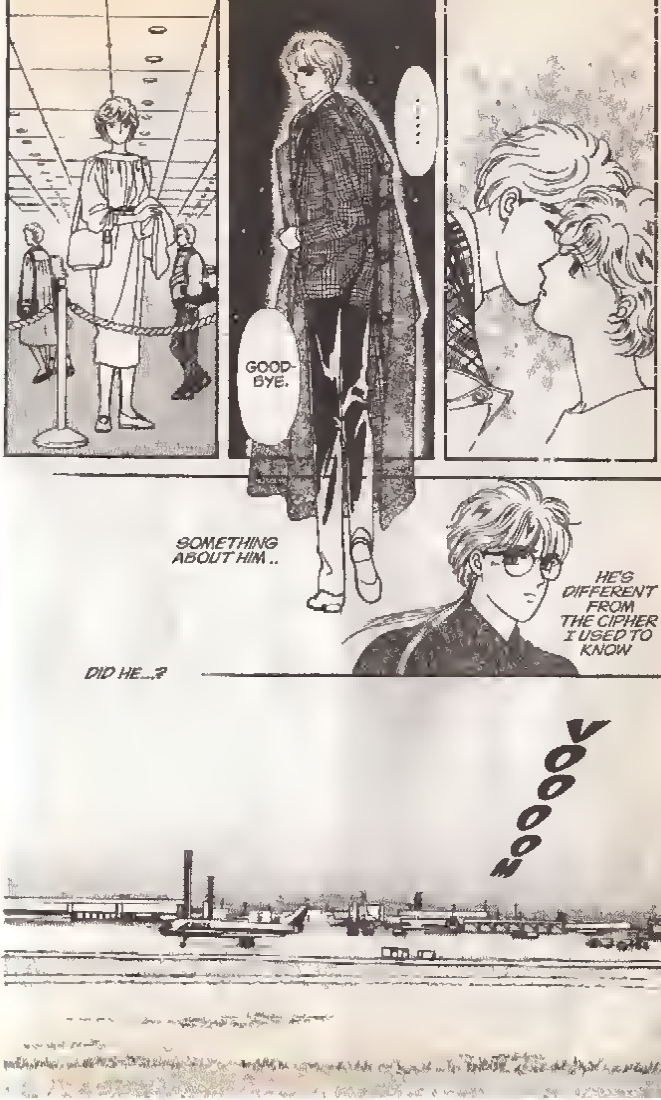

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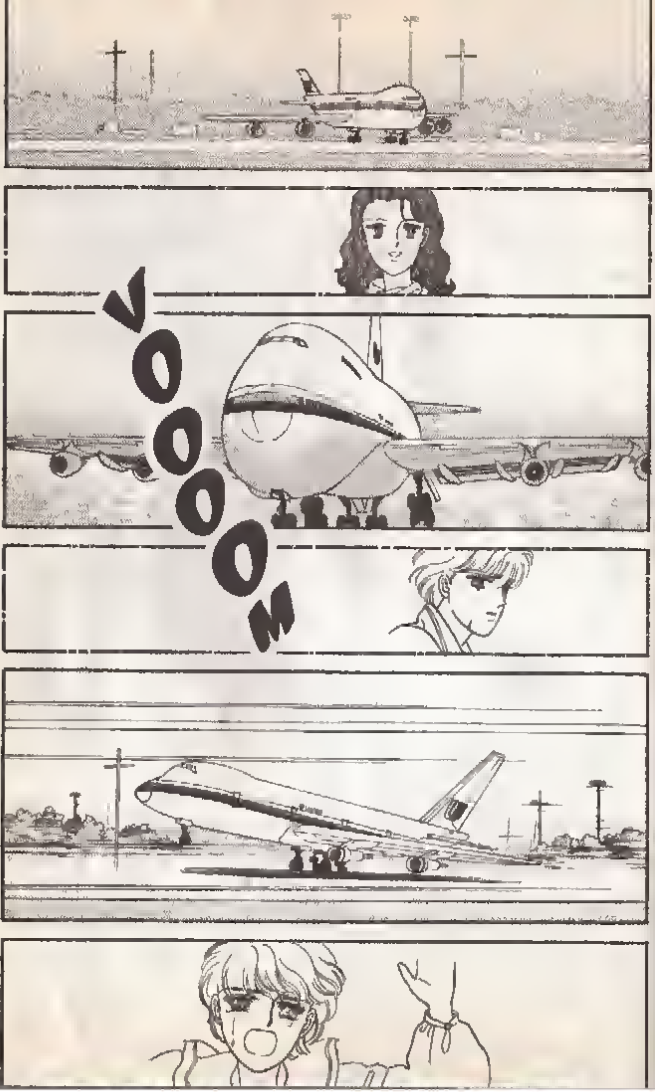

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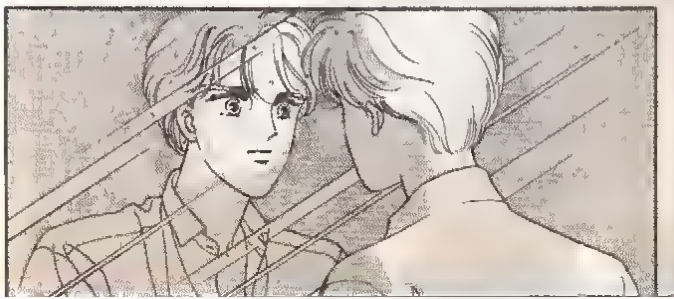

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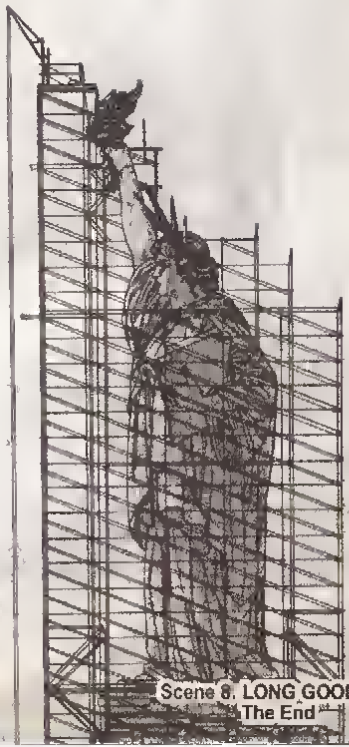
I'M NEVER COMING BACK.



Scene 8. LONG GOODBYE
The End

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A NEW LIFE FOR CIPHER AND A NEW "BROTHER" FOR SIVA? FIND OUT IN APRIL!

By Minako Narita. Cipher arrives in L.A. to begin his new life without Siva. His roommate is a total slob and a party animal, but he also has a female friend who catches Cipher's eye. Back in New York, Anise is worried because Siva has dyed his hair and is hitting the club scene hard. Then Siva meets a mysterious new person who he instantly places in a familiar role.

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